

'Iran may attack Saudi oilfields'

NEW YORK (AP) — Iran may be planning to attack Saudi Arabian oilfields, the New York Times reported in Friday editions. The newspaper said administration officials have told members of Congress that some intelligence analysts believe Iran may be planning to widen the Gulf war with these attacks, and by sending suicide planes against oil tankers. The Times said congressional aides said officials of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration had cited such reports to back the administration's tentative decision to supply Saudi Arabia immediately with 200 portable Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. The officials said 1,000 more missiles would be provided later. A State Department official said later that intelligence analysts had said Iran might launch a major ground attack against Iraq during Ramadan, the Muslim month of dawn-to-dusk fasting that begins June 1.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: جريدة سياسية عربية مستقلة المنشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Walid Maraqa elected JDA president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Walid Maraqa was Friday elected as the new president of the Jordanian Dental Association (JDA) by 235 votes beating his main rival for the seat, Dr. Mussalam Al Qassem, who secured 121 votes. The following are the names of the new JDA council members elected Friday: Dr. Ahmad Al Rashdan (professional slate), Dr. Ahmad Al Qaderi (professional slate), Dr. Nassar Nassar, Dr. Anes Al Sanli (professional slate), Dr. Munther Al Siam (professional slate), Dr. Hashem Ghraibeh (professional slate), Dr. Ghaleb Eweis (the united slate), and Dr. Thabet Thabet (representative of dentists of the Israeli-occupied West Bank).

See earlier story on page 3

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King congratulates Sudan, Argentina

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of congratulations to President Jaafar Numeiri of Sudan in which he congratulated Mr. Numeiri on behalf of the people and government of Jordan on the occasion of the anniversary of the May 25 Revolution. In his cable the King wished President Numeiri success in the leadership of his people to achieve further progress and prosperity. The King also sent a cable of congratulations to the Argentine president on the occasion of the Argentine Independence Day and wished the people of Argentina progress and prosperity.

Ministries asked to abide by OIC resolution

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries and government departments and institutions are to abide the decision of the Jerusalem Committee which was adopted during the committee's recent session in Fez in April concerning deals with Costa Rica and El Salvador, a communique issued by the Prime Ministry said. The Jerusalem Committee decision, which came in implementation of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) resolutions, call for severing diplomatic, economic and social and cultural relations with any state which decides to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Europarlament seeks to curb Gulf arms

STRASBOURG (R) — The European parliament has called on European Community governments to put an immediate stop to arms supplies to both sides in the Gulf war. The parliament, noting the growing danger of an escalation in the Iran-Iraq war, expressed concern about the human and economic cost of the conflict and the potential damage to trade. Members said in a debate before passing their resolution on the Gulf war that they were worried that such an escalation could nip European economic recovery in the bud if it led to an interruption in oil supplies.

Soviet Jewish emigre charged of selling U.S. secrets

NEW YORK (R) — A Soviet Jewish emigre was indicted Friday by a federal grand jury on charges of attempting to export high technology computer parts to the Soviet Union via a company in West Germany. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury John Miller told a press conference here that one of the items emigre Yuri Geifman was alleged to have tried to export could be used by the Soviets in missile guidance and military radar systems.

Syrian MIG crashes in Lebanon

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — A Syrian MIG-21 fighter crashed in Syrian-held northern Lebanon Thursday and the pilot escaped with minor injuries, security sources said. The pilot, named as George Al Ghazal, baled out over Akkar province at about 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) after his plane developed mechanical trouble, they said.

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Nation-wide celebrations mark Jordan's Independence Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Friday celebrated the 38th anniversary of its independence with marches and a variety of activities throughout the Kingdom.

Celebrations started in the country's capital, Amman, with thousands of schoolchildren, scouts and citizens of various ages gathering at the campus of Hamza Ibn Abdul Muteleeb Mosque in Marka where they performed "dabke" dances and hailed the country's leadership.

A huge march then started from Marka to the old campus of Amman Municipality downtown, marching through streets bedecked with flags and decorative signs.

The march led by the mayor of Amman, Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh, included 60 vehicles carrying posters of His Majesty King Hussein and decorated by flags and flowers. A vehicle carrying a model of Al Aqsa Mosque preceded all others at the march.

A big celebration took place at a park in the vicinity of the municipality building where female scouts raised the Jordanian flag and national anthem was played by the Jordanian Armed Forces. During the parade downtown, a 160 square-metre poster of King Hussein draped over the southern wall of the municipality building was unveiled.

A procession of floats from downtown then drove to the Ministry of Interior Circle and ended at the Martyr's Monument near Al Hussein Youth City. The floats then joined bands and scouts there to perform many activities and watched by a huge number of people.

On the occasion of Independence Day the Nuzha Street, which stretches from Abdul Nasser Circle to Al Mahatta, was named "Independence Street." Various activities and marches also took place in the various regions of the country in which citizens from all walks of life and members of the Armed Forces participated.

In Irbid, people gathered in the



Vehicles decorated with the Jordanian flag and pictures of His Majesty King Hussein parade through Amman streets while youths perform the 'dabke' dance as part of the country's 38th Independence Day celebrations Friday (Petra photo)

municipality playground and opened their celebrations by playing the national anthem and raising the Jordanian flag and then floats, people and scouts marched in the main streets of the city to the accompaniment of music played by the Armed Forces band.

At Ramtha citizens also celebrated the occasion marching from Abu Tamam School through the main streets of the city with the participants carrying flags and posters of King Hussein. The march ended at the Ibn Hamzah School where representatives of teachers, students and youth centres hailed the country's leadership and pointed out that Jordan's independence has strengthened the prosperity of the country.

At Mafrqa, a massive popular

municipality playground and opened their celebrations by playing the national anthem and raising the Jordanian flag and then floats, people and scouts marched in the main streets of the city to the accompaniment of music played by the Armed Forces band.

The citizens of Jerash and Shobak also held parades and activities during which governors and officials of the two cities participated in the marches.

All celebrations which took place on Friday had live television and radio coverage with journalists interviewing several officials and citizens participating in the parades.

On the occasion, His Majesty

King Hussein received congratulatory telegrams from high-ranking Jordanian civilian and military officials expressing their feelings of pride, loyalty and appreciation for the King and assuring the people's support for his leadership. They also hailed the Jordanian Armed Forces and expressed hope that the occasion will be repeated after liberating Jerusalem and the occupied Arab lands.

The telegrams were sent by the Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez respectively, Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, Director-General of Public Security Mohammad Jidris, Mayor of Amman Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh,



Vehicles decorated with the Jordanian flag and pictures of His Majesty King Hussein parade through Amman streets while youths perform the 'dabke' dance as part of the country's 38th Independence Day celebrations Friday (Petra photo)

Director-General of General Intelligence Department Tarek Aladein and Director-General of Civil Defence Khaled Al Tarawneh.

King Hussein also received congratulatory telegrams from Arab and Islamic kings and heads of state as well as from various foreign countries.

King Hussein also presented a number of the SIE staff and members of the board of directors with gifts.

Dr. Anani later presented King Hussein with the SIE's shield as a memorial present on the occasion.

Industrial city opened

To mark the occasion of the Independence Day, King Hussein

inaugurated the Sahab Industrial City and exhibition of Jordanian industries which included products from 150 companies.

Upon arrival at the celebration site in Sahab, the King was received by Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Dr. Jawad Al Anani and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sahab Industrial Estate (SIE) Dr. Jawad Al Anani, members of the board of directors, SIE Director-General Dr. Fayez Subehmat and the mayor of Sahab.

Sahab streets and yards were decorated with the Jordanian flag and notices of congratulations to King Hussein and the Jordanian people.

A large number of Sahab inhabitants and school students and scouts paraded along the streets

and entrances of the industrial city to welcome the King.

After inaugurating the industrial city, King Hussein proceeded to the celebration site where he listened to some verses of Koran.

Dr. Subehmat delivered a speech welcoming King Hussein and thanking him for patronising the celebration and for his continuous support of industrial development. Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Dr. Jawad Al Anani also delivered a speech in which he focused on the significance of the Independence Day and saying that this high edifice where the celebration is held embodies the hopes and translates the aspirations of the people.

Dr. Anani also hailed King Hussein's wise leadership.

Attending the opening ceremony were the Prime Minister 'Obeidat, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, cabinet members, parliament members, high-ranking military and civil officials, directors of economic institutions and companies, members of the diplomatic missions in Jordan and religious leaders and clergymen, in addition to a number of guests.

King Hussein toured the various sections of the industrial city and inspected the facilities and services rendered by the city to investors. He also visited one of the factories which has just started production and inspected the progress of work there.

At the end of the celebration, King Hussein bestowed on Dr. Fayez Subehmat the Jordan Kawakab Medal of the Second Order. He also awarded Mr. Subehmat the Al Kawakab Medal of the Third Order and Adnan Sa'id the Independence Medal of the Third Order.

National aerobatic team stages performance, page 3

Iraq forces 'attack and hit' 8 vessels in Gulf

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq announced that eight unidentified ships were "attacked and hit" Friday by Iraqi jetfighters and navy vessels while some damage was done by floating mines near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini in the northeastern sector of the Gulf region.

A war communique, released by the general command of the Iraqi armed forces, said Iraqi jetfighters and navy vessels attacked before dawn an undisclosed number of "naval targets sailing across the Khor Moussa Canal" which leads to the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini, 115 kilometres southeast of Iraq.

The attack, according to the communique, resulted in "hitting and destroying six of the naval targets... that were seen on fire."

Two other unidentified targets were "destroyed by Iraqi floating mines which they hit while trying to escape our fire," the communique added.

The communique, which reports on daily combat action of the 44-month Gulf war, said the air and sea attacks "underline our determination to maintain and tighten" the four-month Iraqi blockade imposed on Iranian ports.

The attacks came less than 48 hours after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein pledged to "intensify the blockade... and tighten the grip" on Iranian ports.

ernational shipping or insurance sources," the Associated Press said.

The attack is the second reported strike by Iraq in 24 hours against ships sailing in the Gulf region.

Iraqi jetfighters on Thursday "successfully raided" two unidentified naval targets near Kharg Island, Iran's main oil terminal in the Gulf, about 230 kilometres southeast of Iraq.

The reported attack came just hours before the U.N. Security Council was to begin an emergency meeting to consider action to halt attacks on commercial ships in the Gulf.

The attacks, staged by Iran and Iraq as part of their 44-month-old war, have raised fears that other Gulf countries and perhaps the United States might become involved in the conflict.

On Thursday, an Iranian warplane attacked a Liberian-registered tanker in the Gulf in retaliation for attacks earlier in the day by Iraqi warplanes, U.S. intelligence sources said.

An Iranian F-4 attacked the tanker "Chemical Venture" on Thursday, U.S. State Department spokesman John Hughes said in Washington, quoting intelligence sources in the Gulf region. A spokesman for Japan Line Ltd., which chartered the ship, said the 31 crew members were rescued by a Saudi Arabian naval vessel. Shipping sources in Bahrain said that 10 of the crewmen were hospitalised with injuries and that the ship, set ablaze by a single missile, was out of danger. Mr. Hughes said Saudi planes

chased the attacking plane, without making contact, but the Saudi Defence Ministry on Friday denied its planes were involved.

The Associated Press said Lloyd's of London insurers Friday raised their premiums 150 per cent for tankers calling at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the Gulf, a spokesman said, following Iraq's claim of a big attack on shipping in the war zone.

"The rates were increased this morning to 7 1/2 per cent from three per cent," said a spokesman for the Lloyd's insurance syndicate. The rate covers only one week at the Iranian oil-export terminal and means a ship owner would have to pay 7.5 per cent of the value of his ship to take on a cargo of oil.

Iran-Syria talks end

TEHRAN (R) — A high-level Syrian delegation left Tehran Thursday carrying Iran's views on ways to de-escalate the crisis in the Gulf caused by recent attacks on shipping.

Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, who led the mission, told reporters latest developments in the waterway had complicated the situation to the extent that "negative reactions" might spread beyond the area.

Mr. Khaddam, who arrived here Wednesday with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a, earlier reached agreement with Iranian leaders on the need to prevent the 44-month-old Gulf war from spreading to other Gulf Arab countries.

"The main subject today concentrated on latest developments in the war and the search for ways of avoiding an extension to other countries of the region," he said later.

Informed sources in Tehran said Mr. Khaddam was returning to Damascus with Iran's proposals for preventing an escalation and that much would depend on the next steps by Gulf Arab states.

2 killed in Israeli air raid over E. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli jets Thursday night bombed Palestinian commando positions behind Syrian lines in eastern Lebanon for the second time in five days and Beirut radios said two people were killed and five injured.

An Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv said the planes scored hits on a regional headquarters and training base of a commando group behind Syrian lines in the Bekaa Valley.

He did not identify the group but Beirut Radio stations said it was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) of Ahmad Jibril.

State-run Beirut Radio said the raid began at 7:10 p.m. (1610 GMT) and lasted six minutes. It quoted its correspondent in the Bekaa as saying the planes made repeated bombing runs and were met by ground fire but did not specify whether from guns or missiles.

Last Sunday Israeli planes struck inside the Syrian-held area of the Bekaa for the first time since early January. They hit a camp of a pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim group about 20 kilometres north of Thursday night's raid and only five kilometres from the Syrian border.

Hussein Moussawi, chief of the "Islamic Amal" movement in the northern Bekaa town of Baalbek, said later he narrowly escaped death in Sunday's attack, in which four fighters were reported wounded and a farmer killed.

Israel claimed the camp was a training centre and jumping-off point for commandos attacking its troops in occupied South Lebanon. The guerrilla position hit Thursday night lies near the village of Deir Zannoun on the Beirut-Damascus highway about five kilometres from the town of Bar Elias and 50 kilometres east of Beirut by road, Beirut Radio said.

U.S. envoy meets Berri amid reports of new American role

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew met Friday with Lebanon's state minister for southern Lebanon amid reports the United States may again play some role in negotiating "security" guarantees for Israel prior to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the country.

The meeting with Nabih Berri, the Shi'ite Muslim militia leader now part of Lebanon's new cabinet, followed a newspaper report that Mr. Bartholomew had said the day before that the United States would act as a middleman between Israel and Lebanon and send a special envoy to take up the task.

John Stewart, a U.S. embassy spokesman, denied the report in the independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar that Mr. Bartholomew had told Prime Minister Rashid Karami on Thursday that a U.S. special envoy would be sent to the area.

It's true that they (Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Karami) talked

and discussed the situation in South Lebanon and prospects for negotiations between Lebanon and Israel," he said. "The element of the An Nahar story having to do with a special negotiator is not true."

One U.S. diplomatic source, who spoke on condition his name be withheld, said all the United States has told the Lebanese "is that we would encourage and assist in any reasonable way in their efforts to negotiate with Israel."

Last year's major U.S. diplomatic effort — which involved shuttle diplomacy by secretary of State George Shultz — led to the May 17, 1983, Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement, which has since been scrapped by the Lebanese government under pressure from opposition factions and Syria.

Israel maintains a 15,000-man occupation force in South Lebanon.

Mr. Bartholomew said after

Friday's meeting with Mr. Berri that "all matters of interest" had been discussed, but he did not elaborate. Mr. Stewart said the session was "one of a continuing round of talks" with Lebanese leaders and added: "South Lebanon is, of course, a subject of constant and continuing discussion."

In Beirut, sniping was reported along the "green line" separating mainly Christian east Beirut from the city's mostly Muslim west.

Parliament Speaker Kamel Assad on Friday issued a demand that Lebanese police be given written orders to fire at any militia men who approach the parliament's headquarters during a vote of confidence on the new cabinet.

Mr. Assad said he would schedule the meeting to debate and vote on the "national unity" cabinet's policy statement once he receives an answer to his demand from Mr. Karami.

Kuwait appeals for urgent action as U.N. begins debate on Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council opened an urgent meeting on the Gulf crisis Friday with Kuwait appealing for quick action to halt Iranian attacks on commercial shipping on the Arab side of the strategic waterway.

Warning that a further expansion of the Iran-Iraq war could lead to a superpower confrontation in the Gulf, Kuwait's foreign minister, Sheikh Sahab Al Jaber Al Sabah, told the 15-nation body: "The political and economic nature of the Gulf area, as well as its fragile situation both strategically and security-wise, make it imperative that the Gulf become an oasis of peace and security."

Mr. Sabah, speaking on behalf of six Arab Gulf states that had requested the meeting, urged the council to move quickly to adopt "a fair resolution, which will identify the aggressor, condemn the aggression and warn against its recurrence."

If the Iranian attacks continue, he said, Kuwait reserved the right to call upon the Security Council to adopt sanctions against the Islamic government in Tehran.

Neither the Kuwaiti foreign minister nor the draft resolution he was proposing mentioned Iraqi attacks against commercial ships near Iranian ports.

Iran's chief U.N. delegate, Said Rajaei Khorassani, who has boycotted past council meetings on the Iran-Iraq war, was absent as the debate opened and scheduled a news conference later Friday to give his country's position.

In addressing the Security Council, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said the Iranian attacks constituted a violation of international conventions.

As Iranian representatives are

went to do, Mr. Sabah invoked the Koran to urge Tehran's Islamic leaders to live up to their contractual commitments.

"God almighty, it says in the Holy Koran, oh ye who believe fulfil all obligations."

Saudi Arabian Ambassador Samir Al Shalabi urged the Security Council to act firmly so as "not to permit aggression against third parties in the Gulf that are not belligerents."

He warned that the world would "pay an exorbitant price for (the council's) failure to express its true stance to those responsible in Iran."

A working paper circulated privately by GCC members as the basis for a resolution would have the Security Council strongly condemn Iran for "unjustified attacks on ships en route to and from the ports of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

Cairo election rally ends up in violence

CAIRO (AP) — Police clashed with stone-throwing demonstrators after an opposition election rally in a Cairo neighbourhood and seven policemen were injured, government officials said Friday.

They said 23 demonstrators from the New Wafd Party, including a former member of parliament, were detained for questioning following the rally early Thursday but were later released on bail.

They said police casualties included four officers. One of the policemen was reported in serious condition with a concussion, they added. There was no word on injuries among the protesters.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the demonstration by about 250 members of the New Wafd began early Thursday after a party rally addressed by the opposition group leader Foad Serageldin in Sayeda Zehab Square, a densely populated, lower middle class district.

Parliamentary elections are scheduled for Sunday. Campaigning by the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) and four opposition groups including the New Wafd began about a month ago.

The New Wafd is a revival of an old party that dominated Egyptian politics until the monarchy was toppled in a 1952 military coup. Mr. Serageldin was a former interior minister under the monarchy.

President Hosni Mubarak has promised free election. But government regulations have banned street demonstrations during the campaign.

The officials said the New Wafd demonstration, led by former parliamentarian Elwi Hafez, shouted anti-government slogans "threatening national unity."

Having failed to persuade the demonstrators to disperse peacefully, the officials said, police "went into action." They did not specify what weapons the police used but said demonstrators hurled stones and some tried to damage public property.

The disturbance ended with the detention of 22 demonstrators on the spot. Mr. Hafez escaped but was later taken into custody, officials said.

They said the detainees were questioned for seven hours and then released on bail.

The leading, state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram said Mr. Hafez was openly defiant during questioning and was quoted as telling interrogators, "I will not stop until I turn this into a civil war."

The demonstration was the second reported clash between police and New Wafd members since the campaign began.

Last week in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, New Wafd leaders claimed police broke up a rally which Mr. Serageldin was about to address. They said police used tear gas and sticks to break up the crowd attending the rally and then hauled down the tent where the gathering was to have been held.

Al-Ahram's Friday editions fronted photocopies of what the newspaper claimed were classified U.S. embassy documents between 1946 and 1952 purporting to show that Mr. Serageldin has suggested a secret deal between the Wafd and the United States.

The alleged documents showed that Mr. Serageldin, then secretary general of the old Wafd Party which was in the opposition, sought U.S. assistance in bringing the Wafd to power in return for a pledge to make Egypt a U.S. ally in a Western defence pact.

The alleged documents included one bearing the signature of the U.S. Ambassador Jefferson Caffery viewing Mr. Serageldin's proposal as "out of the question" because there was no guarantee he would deliver on his pledge.

The alleged memoranda also purported to show the Wafd had been flirting with the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, now banned, as far back as 1946. The Brotherhood is aligned with the New Wafd in the current election campaign. New Wafd candidate lists include 16 Brotherhood members, according to party officials.

Mr. Serageldin denied in a telephone interview with the Associated Press that he had ever proposed a secret deal with the United States.

"I personally never contacted the U.S. embassy at that time," he said. "Neither did I send any emissary to the embassy. The substance of the report is absolutely without foundation."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who left for Britain Thursday, bids farewell to Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi (left) and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid (right) at the Royal Court.

Crown Prince leaves for Britain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday left for the United Kingdom on a working visit, during which he will deliver a lecture at David Davis Institute in London on Jordan's concept of a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East, which would guarantee Arab rights and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Prince Hassan will also be the main speaker at the Jordanian-British Association which is co-chaired by Prince Hassan and the Duke of Kent.

The Crown Prince will also

meet with Archbishop of Canterbury to discuss strengthening Islamic-Christian relations, and will meet with high-ranking British officials.

Prince Hassan was seen off at Amman airport by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, and a number of senior government officials.

On Friday, Prince Hassan addressed the British-Jordanian Society and praised its efforts aimed at increasing awareness among the British people of the development in Jordan and Jordan's role under

the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein in seeking a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Prince Hassan also stressed the importance of cementing the existing co-operation between Jordan and the United Kingdom especially in economic, educational and cultural fields and also the necessity for exchanging expertise in educational field.

Addressing the society was also British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce who stressed the strong Jordanian-British relations and praising the leadership of King Hussein.

Moscow said to hint at Israel relations

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Soviet Union has hinted to Israel through Hungary that it is ready to renew its diplomatic ties with Israel, the daily newspaper Haaretz reported Friday.

The independent Haaretz quoted intelligence sources in London as saying the Soviets would renew links with Israel in exchange for Israel's agreement to Soviet participation in the Middle East peace process and Israeli technological co-operation to help Soviet industry.

It quoted the sources as saying the Soviet approach was made during a visit by Israeli computer

and electronics executives to Budapest last month. The sources said Hungarian officials told their Israeli counterparts that it was their function to "open the door" to the Soviet bloc.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a telephone interview that "there is a wave of hints like this every few months," and that they usually remained no more than hints.

Deputy spokesman Ilan Elgar said the Soviets "know the address" if they want to restore diplomatic ties with Israel, and that they did not need to use Hungary as a go-between.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel had informed the United Nations that "we don't respond positively" to Soviet proposals for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Officials stress that Israel will continue to base its policy on the Camp David agreement and the 1979 treaty with Egypt.

The Soviet Union and its East bloc allies except for Romania cut diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Diplomatic contacts between Israel and the Soviet Union are conducted through the Romanian embassy in Israel and The Netherlands embassy in Moscow.

Two Israeli army officers charged with anti-Palestinian terrorist plots

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Two Israeli army officers were charged Thursday with helping a Jewish terrorist group plan attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

The officers appeared in the Jerusalem district court and were remanded in custody until next week. The judge forbade publication of their names and ranks.

On Wednesday, 25 Jewish settlers from the West Bank and Golan Heights were charged with forming a terrorist organisation responsible for the murder and attempted murder of Palestinian civilians in a series of attacks over the past four years.

The officers were charged with helping the group plan car bombings in 1980 which killed the Palestinian mayors of Nablus and Ramallah.

The state prosecutor told the court the officers exploited their

position in the Israeli West Bank military government by giving the terrorist group information about the mayors' houses, cars and movements.

"Their job was to protect the local population. Instead they endangered the lives of some of them," he said.

The accused are charged with failing to alert the army that a bomb had been planted in the garage of a third mayor, Ibrahim Tawil, in the West Bank town of Al-Bireh.

The charge sheet says one of the accused was at the scene when an Israeli army soldier arrived to check the mayor's car.

The officer watched as the suspect, a member of Israel's Druze minority, opened a garage door, triggering the bomb. The suspect was blinded by the explosion.

The same officer was accused of attempted murder. Both officers

were charged with dereliction of duty, gross negligence and failure to report a crime.

Dressed in civilian clothing, the officers sat expressionless in the courtroom as the prosecutor read excerpts from confessions they made during interrogation.

The underground group was uncovered after security agents foiled an attempt last month to blow up a fleet of Palestinian buses in East Jerusalem.

Israel Radio reported Thursday that security forces had arrested a well-known rabbi from a large Jewish settlement who is a candidate in the forthcoming July general election.

Meanwhile police said Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a Jewish settler leader arrested 11 days ago for questioning about the Jewish underground, was released Thursday from police custody.

Kuwait seminar reviews U.S.-Arab economic ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Ways to promote U.S.-Arab economic and trade relations, the importance of oil in international trade in the current decade, the development of foreign aids as well as the effect of oil revenues on U.S.-Arab trade were the main topics of a two-day seminar which ended in Kuwait Wednesday.

Federation of Jordanian Chamber of Commerce President Hamdi Al Tabbaa, who returned home Wednesday after taking part in the seminar, said that the seminar was organised by the General Union of the Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, in co-operation with

George Town University in Washington and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce.

Also discussed during the seminar were topics on the expected changes in investment flow, the effect of oil returns on the banking sector, the effect of arms purchases on foreign trade as well as a future look at the foreign strategy of American trade. Mr. Tabbaa said.

Taking part in the seminar were representatives from Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Mauritania, and the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce.

CAEU chief returns from meetings in Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — The secretary-general of the Arab Economic Union (CAEU), Mahdi Al Obeidi, returned from Damascus Thursday after representing the CAEU General Secretariat in meetings of the CAEU technical committee which co-ordinates plans and their implementation

between the Arab League and various specialised Arab organisations.

During his stay in Damascus, Mr. Obeidi held talks with a number of Syrian officials on the progress of work at the CAEU and developing its work in the future to achieve the national goals of the Arab Nation.

Herut overcomes Liberal threat to quit partnership

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's right-wing Likud bloc, which has held power since 1977, has patched up weeks of bitter inter-party rows and appeared set to conduct a united campaign for the July 23 general election.

The Liberal Party, minor partner in the bloc, had threatened to break its alliance with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Herut Party, after Herut leaders offered it a reduced number of safe places on the Likud list of election candidates.

This led to fears by right-wingers that the break-up of Likud would open the way for a Labour Party victory.

But after a last-minute intervention by Mr. Shamir, the Lib-

erals' central committee has now decided against running separately in the polls.

Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin put together the Likud bloc in the mid-1970s. Its success in the 1977 election brought Mr. Begin into office after 29 years in opposition.

Likud has since ruled in coalition with small religious parties. Herut politicians have long complained however that the Liberals, who have a dwindling public following, received too many ministerial posts and parliamentary seats under the pact.

The Liberal Party has 18 of Likud's 42 seats in the 120-member parliament and six ministers in the 20-man cabinet.

Numeiri: Sudan will fight 'Communist infiltration'

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri has vowed that Sudan will stand firm against any "Communist infiltration" into Africa.

Mr. Numeiri, in a speech marking the 15th anniversary of the May Revolution which brought him to power, pledged Thursday that Sudan would stand against "Soviet incursions" into Africa, the Red Sea and the Nile Valley.

Declaring that the country faced a "very grave danger," he said in a radio and televised speech: "Strategically poised and ideologically placed, we form the dividing line between communist expansionism from Ethiopia into the rest of Africa."

Mr. Numeiri took power in a coup in 1969 and soon after neg-

otiated an end to bloodshed between a mainly Muslim north and a mostly Christian and animist south.

But last month he imposed a state of emergency and a major cabinet shake-up in a bid to overcome political and economic problems besetting the country, including a rebel uprising in the south against his rule.

He accused some unidentified Sudanese with communist leanings of having started anew their "previous activities of extreme communism" against his government. He said some of them had published state secrets in Europe and the Gulf under disguised names, but he did not elaborate.

Egyptian villagers caught between personal favourites, party candidates

By Assem Hassan
Reuters

AL SAFIA, Egypt — Egypt's general election is posing problems for people in rural areas who traditionally have voted for individual candidates to whom they are bound by family ties or common interests.

The government, in an effort seen in part as designed to break this blind allegiance, has introduced a system of party lists to replace the 60-year-old, one-candidate, one-vote system for the May 27 poll for a new people's assembly.

Many of the 3,700 eligible voters in this village, about 140 kilometres northwest of Cairo, which mirrors many other similar areas, are unhappy. "We don't understand this complicated system... it means nothing to us," said one.

Unlike big towns, where banners and mass rallies play a major role in the election campaign, votes in the countryside are won largely through personal contacts, sunset gatherings on brick-built benches and mosque meetings

after prayers. "It is a matter of pride for the village to vote for its own candidate regardless of their party inclinations," said villager Vassa'd Ali.

In this month's election voters are obliged to select an entire party list. "We are torn between obligations by law to choose only

one list and our desire to select particular names from the various party lists," Mr. Ali said. Family ties are so deep that representatives of President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) had to seek permission to visit the village during a campaign tour.

According to tradition, a visit unauthorised by Al Safia elders would be considered a serious trespass offence, leading possibly to blood feuds.

Many people in the village, part of the larger Nile Delta constituency of Kafr Al Sheikh, remember incidents during the 1979

elections when cars were damaged and candidates stoned.

The village has three candidates running for the opposition centre-left Socialist Labour Party (SLP), which advocates further reforms to improve rural living conditions.

To many Al Safia inhabitants better drainage and irrigation facilities and higher prices for crops seem more important than Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel and ties with other Arab states — both big issues in urban areas.

Al Safia's expected voting for the SLP does not reflect a trend in the constituency. Kafr Al Sheikh was a stronghold of the pre-1952 revolutionary Wafd Party and birthplace of its founder, Saad Zaghloul, who led the 1919 anti-British uprising.

It is also the birthplace of Foad Serageldin, leader of the New Wafd Party, one of five parties contesting the May 27 poll, while his brother Abdul Hamid leads the party list in the constituency.

Political analysis in the constituency says the NDP will win at least seven of the 14 seats.

NEWS ANALYSIS

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
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17:45... Koran
18:00... Local Programme
18:30... Whizz Kids
19:00... Local Programme
19:30... News in Arabic
20:00... Arabic Series
20:30... Arabic Play
21:00... Play Continued
21:30... Saturday Variety Show
22:00... News in English
22:30... Feature Film
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6 parls on 9160 KHz, SW

RADIO JORDAN
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Alia inaugurates direct flights to Singapore

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Thursday started regular, direct flights to Singapore from the Queen Alia International Airport.

The first plane on the new route left Amman Thursday carrying a party of dignitaries and especially invited guests that included Alia President and Chairman of the Board of Directors Ali Ghandour, Civil Aviation Authority Director-General Mahmoud Jamal Balqas, Tourism Authority Director-General Michel Hamarneh as well as a number of senior officials and representatives from the local press.

Upon his arrival in Singapore, Mr. Ghandour gave a short press conference in which he paid tribute to Jordanian-Singapore relations and invited Singapore to operate flights to Jordan.

The new route is aimed at promoting trade and tourist relations between the two countries. Mr. Ghandour went on to say.

A press delegation from Singapore, which arrived here four days ago at the invitation of Alia, also left on the same flight to Singapore.

A special programme has been arranged for the visiting Jordanian delegation which includes visiting historical and tourist sites in Singapore.

Alia will operate Boeing 747 Jumbo jets and Lockheed TriStar planes on this route, which was opened to mark the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day.

Regular flights will operate non-stop between the two capitals at the rate of twice a week.

The Jordanian delegation is scheduled to return home Tuesday.

Mohammad concedes Majalis

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, has called on Al Majalis family in Rabbah near Karak to extend his condolences to them on the death of Haider Jamil Al Majali.

GUVS aids Jerusalem society

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Wednesday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, chairman of the council.

During the meeting, it was decided to extend financial aid worth JD 5,000 to the Orthodox charitable society in Eizariah, Jerusalem, and to allocate JD 500 to the Friends of the Policemen Society in Amman.

The council also decided to donate JD 4,000 in support of a project to build a club, a library, and a children's garden, which is being implemented by the Arab Women's Society, in Jordan, in addition to allocating a weekly prize of JD 5 to children participating in the children's page competition in Al Dastour daily Arabic newspaper.

The council also decided to draw up new regulations to support charitable societies and their projects on the East and West Bank.

To mark the occasion of Ramadan, the council decided to give cash to be given to poor and destitute people throughout the governorates of Jordan.

It was also decided that new elections for the executive council be held sometime in the first third of August.

Royal Falcons swoop over Amman

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Falcons, Jordan's national aerobatic display team, staged a memorable performance in the skies over Amman marking the 38th Independence Day of the Kingdom Friday.

The jets swirled, swooped, jived and did the "loops and rolls" in their first-ever public show in Jordan, and judging from the audience reaction they did indeed make a lasting impact on the viewers.

The air show, organised by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation to raise funds for its charity services and help to victims of cerebral palsy in the country, was inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein.



A member of the Jordanian Air Force Friday parachutes down in an air show staged to mark Jordan's Independence Day (Petra photo)

The King, who was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, opened the programme at 12 noon and the events which included flying demonstrations by the Royal Jordanian Air Force and static displays of various utility aircraft, lasted for over five hours.

One of the highlights of the programme was sky diving performances by members of the Iraqi Air Force who flew here specially to take part in Jordan's Independence Day celebrations.

"It was a much more successful show than we ever hoped it to be," commented Captain Paul Warshaw, director of the Royal Falcons.

"Much more people than we expected have turned up, and it is my belief that we did justice to their expectations," Capt. Warshaw, who has been with the Royal Falcons since 1978, added.

The standard of performance of the Falcons could be compared with any other national team and it is of course a matter of national pride.

"Of course we have the human potential and all we need is the right aircraft," added Colonel Amer Khumush from the air force who flies a medical aircraft.

Incidentally, all Royal Falcon pilots are volunteers from the Air Force who spends their spare time flying the specially equipped Pitts jets of the aerobatic team.

"We are very happy that we could organise this event, which went beyond our expectations in terms of audience and performance," Mr. Fakri Bilbeisi, president of the Cerebral Palsy

Foundation, said. He expressed the foundation's deep gratitude and appreciation for the King and the Queen "who made today an outstanding and memorable day for the foundation," he said.

The King and the Queen also met with some of the cerebral palsy victims under treatment by the foundation. "It is also of great pleasure to us that the children who presented flowers to Their Majesties were at one stage so much affected by cerebral palsy that they could not even walk," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation, which was founded in 1977, organised Friday's show as part of its drive to raise funds to set up a special centre of cerebral palsy victims in Jordan. The charity organisation, which maintains two centres in Jordan — one at the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman and the other at Zarqa, has treated over 1,250 cerebral palsy victims since its inception.

In appreciation of the foundation's services, the King announced Friday that he was contributing JD 10,000 to the foundation's fund to help it expand its activities.

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al 'Jasem, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayed, and members of diplomatic community in Jordan attended Friday's show.

Clothes store blaze rages for three hours

AMMAN (J.T.) — A huge fire which engulfed a used clothes shop in Amman's commercial centre Wednesday night resulted in injuries to three firefighters as well as extensive damage and heavy material loss.

The fire, which was thought to have been caused by a short circuit in the electricity supply, spread quickly through the store, which is located in the first floor of a building in Muhajireen Street.

Raging out of control, the fire then spread to the second floor gutting the rooms and sending flames and smoke tens of feet into the night sky.

A spokesman for the Civil Defence Department, whose fire engines rushed to the scene to fight the fire, said it took nearly three hours and hundreds of firemen to control and extinguish the blaze.

Two civil defence men and one fireman were injured and taken to hospital for treatment, he added.

According to Al Dastour newspaper, His Majesty King Hussein was in contact with the operations room in charge of controlling the fire and was briefed on the progress of the fire-fighting operation.

It said that policemen sealed off the street and diverted traffic to Saqi Al Sail Street, which runs parallel to Muhajireen Street, throughout the operation.

Taking part in fighting the fire, were fire engines from Amman, Sweileh, Quesimih, Jweideh and Zarqa, and they were finally able to extinguish it completely by midnight, he said.

The damage was estimated at tens of thousands of dinars.

Australia trade fair to open Sunday

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A major display of Australian products will take place on Sunday May 27 and will continue until May 31, for the first time in Jordan. Altogether, 25 Australian companies, each represented by government officials, agents, or businessmen from Australia, will exhibit a wide range of products for sale in the Jordanian market.

The display is being organised jointly by the Australian department of trade and Australia's commercial councillor in Baghdad.

Speaking at a press conference at the Holiday Inn here Thursday Mr. Geoffrey Gray, director of display and senior trade commissioner, said that "Australia's trade with Jordan is small but growing."

"It has been growing quite considerably in recent years especially after direct shipping between Australia and Amman started."

"Jordan has a small, but stable economy in this part of the world and we want to develop close relations between our two countries particularly from the trade and commercial point of view," he added.

Regarding the exchange of goods between the two countries, Mr. Gray said "Australia in 1983 purchased approximately \$2 million worth of products from Jordan, mainly comprising phosphate."

"At this stage our importation of phosphate and potash is mainly for testing, but in the next few years we expect to increase our imports of these two important products," he said.

"In the same year, we sold approximately \$12 million worth of products to Jordan, this figure being made up of livestock, meat, cheeses and other manufactured products and agricultural supplies," he added.

Dry farming techniques

"Australia is a dry, arid country similar to Jordan and we have developed modern agricultural techniques which are suitable for farming in such dry areas," he said.

"We have a project for developing the dry farm land farming system and for introducing the new techniques and testing them here in Jordan. This project is sponsored by the Australian government," he added.

"I would like to add that Australia is the largest supplier of wheat the Middle East, even though at this time we are not supplying the Jordanian market with large quantities. However we are major suppliers to Iraq, Egypt and the Gulf countries," he stated.

"It is very important to note that during the exhibition we will be holding a seminar on wheat and flour milling techniques sponsored by the Australian Wheat Board, and we hope that it will be attended by government representatives and private flour millers in Jordan," he said.

In answering a question as to whether the Australian products will be competitive in price compared to European products, Mr. Gray said: "Most of the products chosen for the display are competitive with supplies from Europe."

"Although the shipping cost from Australia can be very expensive, most of these are high quality products and are produced very competitively in Australia and they are widely sold in Europe and the Middle East," he continued.

The 360 square metre area that the Australians are going to use for their display has been designed by the Melbourne-based industrial designers, Peter D. Eastop and Associates, while the execution of the design is being carried out by the Italian interior decoration firm Attovianelli S.R.L.

Firms will be exhibiting their products, each in a self-contained stand. In the Ballroom of the Holiday Inn, while an outside display area is designed to exhibit solar heating systems in action.

The main products that will be on exhibit are: Foodstuffs, dairy products, biscuits, meat, wheat, cheese, canned fruit, cakes, air conditioners, automobile spare parts, sewage and biological treatment equipment amongst others.

Mr. Gray concluded the press conference by inviting importers, retailers, wholesalers and government officials to attend the display and in order to assess their interest in the exhibited range.

"We hope that most of the exhibitors will make contacts with people in Jordan, talk to them about their business and introduce their products so that in the future, trade between our two countries will increase," he concluded.

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Two bedrooms, dining and sitting room, furnished flat.
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Deluxe furnished ground floor apartment consists of two bedrooms, salon, kitchen, dining room and bathroom, with central heating.

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Ground floor apartment consists of one bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom, with central heating and separate entrance.

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A three-storey building comprising six apartments of two and three bedrooms, with garages and children's playgrounds.

It can be rented as housing for an embassy or company personnel. The building will be ready in one month.

Location: Shmeisani, near Abu Anzah Housing Estate.

For more information call tel: 41188

Dentists go to polls

By Lamis Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Elections for a new council of the Jordanian Dental Association (JDA) were held here Friday at the Professional Association Building.

More than 300 out of the 450 dentists registered to vote turned out Friday afternoon to elect a nine-member council out of the 17 prospective candidates, 15 of whom were split into two blocks: The "professional" slate and the "unity" slate.

Two members chose to run independently, one for the post of president and the other for one of the open place council seats.

Observers, however, did not expect the independents to stand much chance, and predicted that most of the votes to be distributed between the two slates.

Dr. Walid Maraqqab from the professional slate was favourite to take the post of president ahead of his main competitor, Dr. Musalam Qassem.

Observers also ruled out the possibility that all eight council seats would be captured by one slate since, as some JDA members put it, "There are no real political distinctions between the two."

A number of voters interviewed by the Jordan Times during the elections, however, disagreed and said they were voting "for slates and not individuals."

The secret ballot for both the president and open places were held together but on separate ballot papers.

The voters cast their preferences for seven candidates as there was agreement by both slates on the representative for dentists from the Israeli occupied West Bank.

Later after the elections the Jordan Times again spoke to a number of voters and noted that, although most of the voting was according to slates, some of the voters included at least one or two names from "the rival slate" whom they knew personally.

Two policy statements, distributed by the respective slates, included some common objectives. Both slates addressed in their campaign statements the practical needs of Jordanian dentists such as curbing unemployment among dentists and securing jobs for new graduates, amending the medical insurance and social security laws.

of the JDA comprehensively to cover the needs of the dentists, raising the pensions of retired dentists and reorganising support for the steadfastness of dentists in the Israeli occupied territories.

The "professional" slate outlined in its programme a set of principles "which will guide its work in the JDA."

These principles included the rejection of sectarianism and regionalism inside the association, to give younger dentists the chance to participate actively in the association and to adopt "constructive dialogue" as the means to solve any internal conflicts that might arise in the future.

Both slates supported the idea of establishing a co-operative shop specialised in selling dental equipment and materials to take advantage of bulk purchasing.

Family planning to feature in population talks

By Olga Mikhael

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-day national seminar on "Population and Development" will start here Saturday, at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The participants will discuss eight major papers dealing with education and its role in family planning, the identification of socio-economic problems emerging from a dramatic increase in population and its impact on development, and the family's role in society.

Highlighting the role of the individual and their responsibility in development in the context of population problems, as well as the encouragement of female labour, and the women's role in education and vocational training will also be discussed.

This seminar is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Labour and the Amman Club for Business and Professional Women (ACBPW) in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

Mr. Mahmud Al Tal, director of the population department and

director of the population project at the Ministry of Labour, told the Jordan Times: "It is not the first time the ministry has organised such a seminar. The population education project at the ministry, in co-operation with the ILO and the UNFPA, has held many seminars and courses in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, the Jordan Valley and Aqaba, about population policies, education and development and the socio-economic problems associated with it."

Mr. Tal added that "the concept of family planning for some people has only an economic impact, while there are other incentives, such as health, social, educational and humanitarian ones, which we believe will contribute to the family planning process."

Concerning women, he said: "This seminar will highlight the importance of women's participation in various fields such as vocational training and labour and in contributing to social and economic development in general and in serving their society in particular."

Mrs. Hind Abdul Jaber, president of the ACBPW said: "The main objective of holding this national seminar on population and development is to help to achieve the clubs objectives of increasing women's education on such matters, developing demographic awareness, promoting family planning the impact of which will lead to an increase in women's productivity thus contributing to development in our country."

Italian industrialists depart after joint venture discussions

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Italian industrial delegation, left Amman Wednesday after a four-day visit to the Kingdom.

The delegation was headed by Dr. Pietrangeli from the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade, who also came to Jordan last February.

The delegation consisted of just under 10 major Italian industrial companies seeking joint-ventures in various fields with their Jordanian counterparts.

The delegation members, who met representatives from the private sector and officials from the

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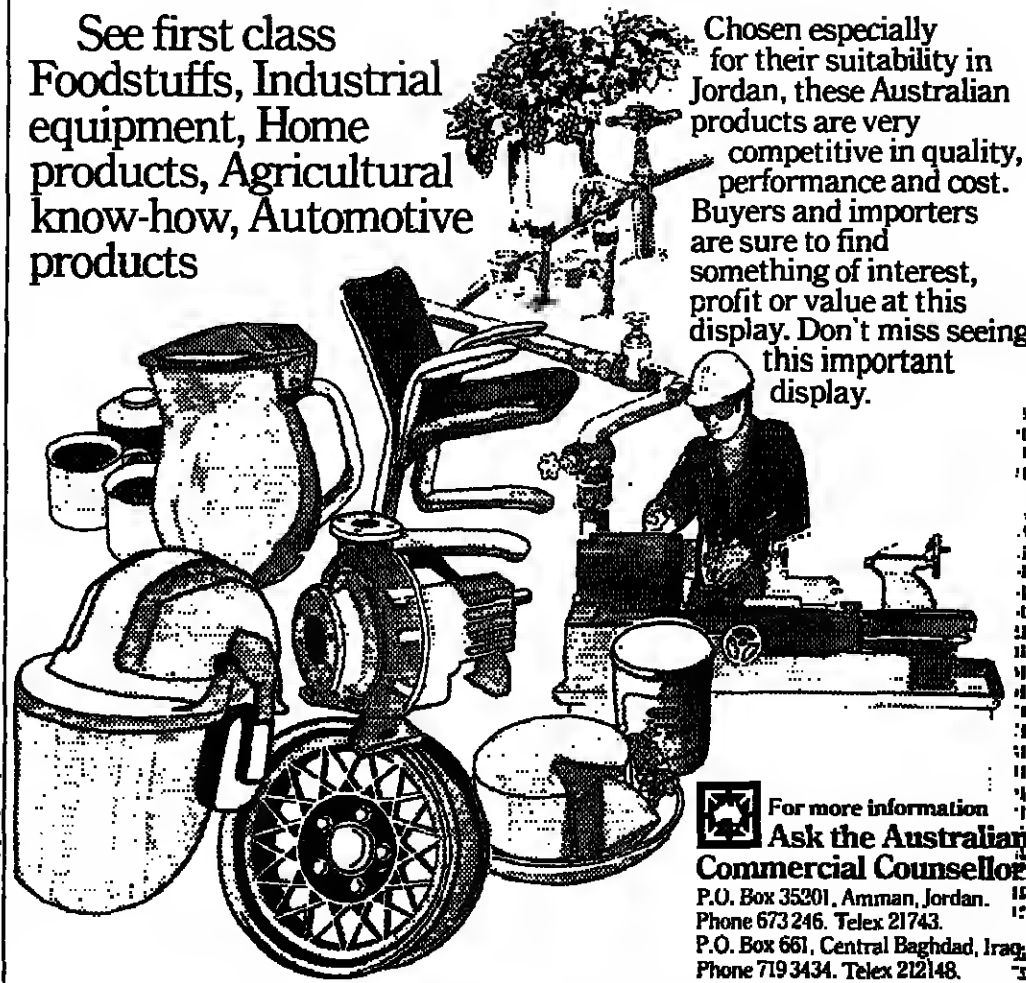
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday

Al Ra'i: Long honourable march

INDEPENDENCE DAY is more than just a historical event; it is a march which will always enlighten our way and remind us of the principles the Great Arab Revolt had crystallised. It embodies the actual principled work which have developed our country (Jordan).

The event we are celebrating today reflects the liberation of the national will from the Zionist influence. The continuous march represents practices which deal with the Jordanian citizen whom it considered as the most valuable asset. It also deals with the Palestine question as an issue of life or death, and with the Arab brethren as organs of the one body. It also deals with the contemporary civilisation as human givings, which we have a role in making with a view to preserving human's dignity and identity.

This is our concept of independence, the concept which His Majesty King Hussein has laid down through stands and practices and which he has interpreted truly and faithfully on the internal arena. This day has become more than an ordinary event or a mere celebration of an occasion which happened in the past. It is a renewable event which emphasises the unity of our people. It also emphasises the Arab identity and helps build the Arab self-reliance; a moral concept of the international relations.

Celebration by the Jordanian family of the Independence Day signifies a bright and honourable long march, through which we recall lessons of the past and plans for the future. On the Independence Day our one family renews its love to the King and the country and expresses its determination to preserve unity and cohesion of the one family and pledges to preserve democracy in our community.

Sawt Al Shaab: Glorious occasion

WHILE WE celebrate the Independence Day and the declaration of Jordan as an independent state, we convey our best wishes and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein, and express our pride in the achievements Jordan has accomplished under his leadership.

Independence is not a historical moment we mark every year, it is a trust which we inherit from the ancestors, who urge us every time to promote meaning of freedom, democracy and national pride.

On the Independence Day, we cherish gained freedom which is strengthened day after day and hail the bliss of a stable and firm homeland, which places the human's value on top of all considerations, and makes adherence to principles a non-negotiable concept.

We, in Jordan have believed in the pan-Arabism, in Arab unity and in the right to sovereignty on our homeland, in addition to the right to freedom and human dignity. Thus our entity is the outcome of the Arab struggle and our aims are part of our Arab people's aims.

On our soil the first fruits of the actual Arab unity were achieved and became a fact which has grown in the souls of our people. And the march of this country has always taken the shape of struggle against tyranny, oppression and aggression, and ardent support for the principles launched by the Great Arab Revolt's message.

Thursday

Al Ra'i: Crucial U.N. debate

THE CURRENT U.N. Security Council debate on the situation in the Gulf assumes a major significance in view of the sensitivity of the region and the dangers inherent in further Iranian air attacks on oil tankers. The attacks constitute a flagrant violation of freedom of navigation in the Gulf waterway and the international community should find a solution to the war and end all hostilities in the Gulf.

The debate is important for the Gulf states and Iran if they do not want foreign intervention in their region. The United Nations can provide a solution to the problem and prevent foreign intervention if Iran is willing to co-operate to end the fighting. The Gulf states and Iran should not let this opportunity go by without a solution to the crisis; otherwise the situation will deteriorate further.

The United Nations should heed recent statements by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who warned against the grave consequences if Iran persists in its aggression and if the superpowers do not shoulder their responsibilities in ending the conflict.

Al Dustour: Syrian mediation

SYRIA HAS sent its foreign minister and vice president to Tehran to discuss issues pertaining to the Gulf war, and only the coming days will reveal the nature of their mission. Syria made no secret over the past three years of its support for Iran and its relentless efforts to weaken its sister state Iraq in violation of the joint Arab defence pact and in disregard to national responsibility.

Now, perhaps the looming foreign intervention in the Gulf region has prompted the Syrian government to take a practical step and approach Tehran for a solution. Perhaps the Syrians have realised now that their brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region are being gravely affected by the war which might spread with untold consequences, and this has prompted them to make moves in a bid to end the conflict. We sincerely hope that Syria will respect its commitments to the Arab Nation and return to the fold.

Sawt Al Shaab: No to foreign fleets

THE ARABS won't find a solution to the Gulf conflict in the U.N. Security Council although an international consensus is quite welcome at present. There is no harm in explaining to the world at large that the Iranians are the aggressors and pressure should be exerted on them to stop their hostile acts against the Arab countries. Yet, deep down the Arabs should feel that the only way to repel Iran's aggression lies in their unity and their self-strength.

The foreign fleets in the Gulf do not provide real security for its states because the powers which control these fleets are interested only in keeping the waterway open for international shipping to secure constant supply of oil to their nations. The Arabs must realise that the Gulf region will retain its Arab identity and therefore they ought to rally behind the Gulf states in defending them by all means, and with all their power. The Gulf states which poured money into poorer Arab states should not shirk their responsibility now because the Gulf states need their support and help. All Arab states should thwart Iran's aims of controlling the destiny of the Gulf and destroying Iraq.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Japan's is a rapidly-changing society

By Franz Schurmann

JAPAN IS a very prosperous country. I was last here in February 1970. At first I thought: so much looks the same, especially the drab buildings one sees all over Tokyo and Yokohama. But then I noticed the differences. There are very few people selling newspapers on the streets. Why? Because Japanese earn... and expect... salaries at American levels, and selling newspapers on the streets earns too little. I wanted to get my shoes shined. In one outlying Tokyo district, I noticed a man sitting on a small chair surrounded by shoes he was repairing. I asked: Would you shine my shoes. And he said: No! I do not shine shoes. Again, shining shoes brought in too little income, but repairing shoes was another matter.

Other changes I noticed is the vastly improved traffic discipline. People wait until the traffic signal changes and then

they walk. It used to be very different. When I was a student here 25 years ago, taxicab drivers were called "kamikaze," in reference to the World War II pilots who hurled themselves and their airplanes against American warships in suicidal attacks. Now few of them are to be seen... or experienced. Everything is rigorously disciplined. I sensed that as auto drivers the Japanese have become even more American than the Americans, and I had always considered the Americans among the most rule-abiding drivers in the world.

Driving from the airport to Yokohama, we went for almost 1½ hour past industrial districts. Not even in the U.S. had I ever seen such geographically concentrated industrial power. And no evidence of factories closing down. The evidence of technology is everywhere.

Yet at the same time there is a smallness and fragility about

Japan, the people, its things. I was walking in an outer Tokyo district looking for a friend's house. I saw many small shops selling the same kind of small things they sold when I was here and in different forms they sold hundreds of years ago. It is not so much that the Japanese have remained traditional, but that they like small, intimate, neighbourly things. In many ways, the Japanese seem like small people in a world full of storms. They rush fast with their umbrellas seeking to protect themselves from the driving rain.

Reading the newspapers... even with my rusty Japanese. I wish I could read Arabic newspapers as well!... I got a sense of this curious contradiction. The newspapers had not that much world news as American papers, but a lot of items relating to schools and technology. Every page had advertisements about special courses, technical training. In one of the major newspapers that has about 15-20 pages I saw an entire page given over to special school announcements, something one never even remotely sees in an American newspaper.

Yet most of what one finds in the newspapers deals with small matters: stories, helpful advice, interviews with prominent authors, film stars, sports figures. Japanese love to read about other people. They also love to weep. On page one of the "New York Times" of Japan there was a story and a picture of a beautiful young woman who was a songwriter and died at the age of 25 of tuberculosis. She actually had died some months before but her works were performed and created a sensation among listeners. I can see the audience weeping copious tears.

But reading the more serious pieces made one realise that at the core of the national attitude is a sense that Japan despite all its stunning success remains a very vulnerable country. There was one item in the same paper as featured the story of the young woman composer. It dealt with prospects for the economy. Nothing was said about the Japanese economy. The first part dealt with the fear that U.S. interest rates would rise again. The second part dealt with a similar fear: that oil prices could go up again because of the growing world economic recovery and, naturally, the Iran-Iraq war.

The U.S. remains, by far, the chief market for Japan. And even though Japan gets less oil now from the Middle East than ten years ago, the Middle East is still Japan's chief supplier. So the economic fate of Japan is tied to two ropes: one going to the oil-producing Middle East and the other to that mighty

market, America. Not coincidentally, the TV features a lot of news on the U.S. and the Middle East.

This sense of smallness and fragility contrasts so much with the Chinese attitude. I was at a conference where a Chinese participant spoke of his country's poverty by saying: We are a very big country but with so little in the stomach to eat.

But when he said this he laughed, as if to say we are not worried. The Japanese who listened all became grim, their brows wrinkled. I could read their thoughts: how fragile and dependent China must be. Both peoples are very different. One important difference is that China was and remains a land that produces philosophers. Japan has produced not a single philosopher of note, but an extraordinary number of great writers, filmmakers, craftsmen.



Genscher feels no warmer in Moscow

By Mark Wood

Reuter

MOSCOW — Moscow's tough line towards visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher this week has led Western diplomats to predict a deep freeze in East-West relations for the rest of 1984.

But many diplomats believe Moscow's harsh tone is only a tactical ploy to put pressure on the West and they predict Soviet policy may change next year if the present strategy fails.

Mr. Genscher came to the Soviet capital to urge a return to East-West nuclear disarmament talks. He admitted failure at a press conference Tuesday when he said he saw no signs that Moscow would go back to negotiations this year.

West German officials accompanying him said privately they were taken aback by the harsh language used by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at bilateral talks and one said the meetings left the visitors "with very grim feelings".

"Gromyko used Genscher's visit to pile on the pressure of the West. His aim was to convince Western Europe the deployment of new U.S. missiles was a major effort and bolster those groups pressing for a deployment freeze," one Western diplomat said.

Other diplomats said the visit had shown once and for all that Moscow would not soften its hardline stance towards the West before the U.S. presidential elections in November.

"Genscher's talks showed there is little point in appealing to the Russians at the present time as they have no intention of moderating their policies. But things are likely to change after November," one said.

Those supporting this view said three specific goals may be behind the Kremlin's "get tough" approach, which has been underlined by its boycott of the summer Olympic Games.

First, it could be hoped to unsettle Western European governments enough to shake the commitment of those pledged to taking new U.S. cruise and Pershing missiles, they said.

Second, the Kremlin might feel that a hellebrand attitude would give a boost to Western anti-nuclear movements opposed to the new missiles and swell the ranks of their planned demonstrations this summer, the diplomats said.

"The anti-nuclear groups always argued that deploying the missiles would make the Russians aggressive rather than ready to negotiate arms cuts. The Soviet leaders probably consider it opportune to prove them right," one diplomat said.

If Moscow has both of these aims in view, it would mean it had still not given up hope that Western public opinion could be mobilised to wreck the NATO deployment programme, diplomats said.

But most analysts believe a third, and probably over-riding Kremlin consideration is to weaken President Reagan's chances of re-election next November.

"Moscow feels that if it makes any moves at all on disarmament this will be used by Reagan to show that he knows how to deal with the Russians. They want to avoid that and do everything possible to undermine his credibility," one said.

The policy line delivered to Mr. Genscher and other Western visitors who preceded him is that the Soviet Union will not even consider resuming nuclear arms negotiations unless the West not only halts its missile deployments but withdraws those weapons already in place.

Moscow walked out of talks on medium and long-range missiles after the west began deploying cruises and Pershings late last year.

Some Western analysts say the new uncompromising stand reflects a Kremlin shift towards more "hawkish" leaders, among whom Mr. Gromyko is believed to be prominent.

After Konstantin Chernenko became party leader in February, Mr. Gromyko was able to broaden his control over foreign policy and has been eager to assert a more vigorous and aggressive line, they say.

Some also believe Mr. Chernenko himself takes a tougher and more nationalistic approach to foreign policy than his predecessors and may well favour such a strategy.

But many diplomats say that even if the Kremlin has now adopted a more hostile policy towards the West, it will still have to back down from its refusal to negotiate on nuclear weapons sooner or later.

Diplomats who shared this view said it was likely that Moscow would re-assess its foreign policy after the U.S. election and could make substantial new moves in 1985.

"If they fail to halt the Western deployments and see Reagan re-elected, my guess is that they will then change tactics and agree to go back to talks," one commented.

In the shorter term, the treatment of Mr. Genscher has raised doubts about the value of holding talks with the Soviet leadership in the present climate.

Mr. Gromyko appears to have given no concrete response on any of the issues the West German foreign minister raised at the talks, including the question of Soviet Ethnic German emigration.

He also publicly slapped down Mr. Genscher's appeal for East-West relations to be protected from further harm caused by differences over the missile issues.

French President Francois Mitterrand and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe are both due in Moscow in the next few weeks. But diplomats said it was unlikely they would fare better than Mr. Genscher and some predicted Mr. Mitterrand would postpone his visit.

No new solutions to 'Group of 10' crisis

By John Rogers

Reuter

LONDON — European countries see no new solutions to old problems on the horizon for the annual seven-nation economic summit in London next month.

West European leaders are expected to remind President Reagan of the adverse impact the U.S. budget deficit and high interest rates have on other economies, sharply increasing the burden of debtor nations, for instance.

Action to curb trade protectionism and to tackle the debt crisis in leading Third World countries, subjects of universal concern, will figure prominently on the informal agenda for the three-day summit starting on June 7.

Ideas on these issues will be aired in private by President Reagan and government chiefs of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, West Germany and Japan.

But expectations of new initiatives are low, and the accent will be on consolidating shared policies of promoting sustained economic growth without inflation. The summit may do little more than cloak known goals in new language, and perhaps with fresh emphasis, some European diplomats believe.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe says the summit must focus on sustaining and broadening economic recovery, shown by forecast growth this year of about 4.5 per cent in the seven leading industrialised countries.

Efforts must also be made to create a more secure international economic climate, he said this week. "This means continuing the battle to reduce interest rates, budget deficits and the tendency for exchange rates to overshoot."

Mr. Howe says Britain, as host, will be taking a lead in pressing for realistic policies to roll back protectionism and remove obstacles to expansion of world trade, expected to increase by about six per cent this year.

These issues have been exhaustively debated in other forums, most recently at last week's Paris meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

"Study as you go" is likely to be the watchword, a West German trade official says.

At the OECD meeting and weekend talks in Rome between finance ministers of the "Group of 10" Western countries, the linked issues of recovery, debt, trade and interest rates shaped up for the summit as follows:

The OECD agreed on a broad world recovery strategy to expand export opportunities for developing countries to earn more foreign currency to meet debt repayments and buy vital imports.

Ministers agreed to ease trade restrictions by advancing by a year tariff cuts originally due in 1986. Looking to the long term, they called for a new round of talks on dismantling trade barriers in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Finance ministers of the "Group of 10", charged by last year's seven-nation summit in Williamsburg, with examining ways of improving the international monetary system, agreed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could play a bigger role in monitoring economic policy in the industrialised world.

Italian officials said the proposal was partly a U.S. response to European concern about U.S. interest rates, and went some way to meeting its partners' demands that Washington should take account of their concerns in framing its policy.



European countries have repeatedly urged Washington to control the growth of its budget deficit by raising taxes to stem the rise of the dollar on international currency markets and bring down interest rates.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan has said U.S. efforts to cut future budget deficits will bring down interest rates. But he warned last week against the "delusion" that world economic problems would be solved by a reduced U.S. deficit.

Against this background, Reuter correspondents in the four European summit countries assessed the prospects this way:

Paris — France will keep up pressure on the related issues of debt, interest rates, currency instability and international monetary reform, President Francois Mitterrand last year proposed a new international monetary conference.

France saw U.S. moves to cut the budget deficit by \$142 billion over the next three years as too little and maybe too late, officials said.

France is expected to push for more resources for the IMF and for the World Bank, which the United States has resisted.

Bonn — Export-oriented West Germany sees measures to stem protectionism as a central issue and will voice fears about growing demands in the U.S. for trade barriers, officials said.

They said West Germany, Japan and the U.S. wanted a new GATT accord, but not all European Community countries were in favour.

Apart from transatlantic differences on U.S. fiscal and monetary policy, West Germany sees more convergence of thinking on economic strategy this year than at recent summits.

London — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is expected to urge summit partners to speak out against "international terrorism" following the killing of a British policewoman during a demonstration outside the Libyan embassy here last month.

On the economic issues, British officials are especially worried about global debt and rising U.S. interest rate. They expect promises, but no action, on dismantling trade barriers.

Rome — Italian officials hold out little hope that European pressure for changes in U.S. monetary policy will have an effect only six months before November's American elections.

"This is not the year in which non-Americans can bring pressure to bear on the U.S. to modify its policies for the sake of international solidarity and co-operation," one official said.

"The London summit will not be the greatest landmark in the history of summits."

هنا مت الأمل

Baz leads team on desert Odyssey

By Dr. Farouk El-Baz

HAVE YOU ever wondered how the deserts of the Earth came into being? Few people have pondered the desert, its vast flat plains, its telltale dry valleys, and its persistently marching dunes.

Today, much of the desert remains a mystery. Although geologists have amassed information on glaciers and volcanoes, mountain ranges and lush river basins, the wind-swept hot deserts remain the least understood features of the Earth. For this there are very good reasons.

First, the earth sciences originated in Europe, the only continent without a desert. The classical geological writings did not deal with arid landforms, and later works borrowed from older ones. As a student of geology in Cairo, Egypt, I was taught about the Alps, the Rockies, the Nile Valley and the Grand Canyon. However, not a word was uttered in my classes about the terrain that forms 96 per cent of Egypt's land area.

Second, deserts occur in such immense belts that cover nine million square miles, making one out of six parts of the continental surfaces. The desert's inhospitably harsh conditions make travel difficult if not impossible; its unyielding environment hampers desert exploration by conventional means.

Third, geologists prefer to seek solid rock, sampled *in situ*, to decipher the history and evolution of the terrain. Desert surfaces are covered by a mix of transported rock rubble, soil and sand. Furthermore, sand accumulations are usually in the form of uncrossable, menacing dunes.

No wonder misconceptions about the desert find an easy and uncritical audience. Most dangerous among these is the belief that the desert is man-made, and therefore we can undo the work of our ancestors with our new technology. Both concepts are incorrect and have added to the misuses of deserts and arid lands.

These concepts became especially popular during the past two decades when it was fashionable to blame all the ills of the Earth on mankind and on adverse human activities. In reality, nothing could be more dangerous than overestimating our intelligence and the power of our technology as compared to the powers of nature.

The term desert, which denotes areas that receive less than ten inches of rain per year, is a suitably descriptive one. It is as ancient as written language itself. It came to us from the ancient Egyptian hieroglyph pronounced *tesert*, via the Latin verb *deserere*, to abandon. From the latter came *desertum*, a waste place or wilderness and *desertus* meaning abandoned, relinquished or forsaken.

All those who have travelled in the heart of the desert encounter evidence that it once hosted great

numbers and varieties of flora and fauna. When weather conditions changed, these tracts of land were forsaken by the biota for other regions where life-sustaining water was more plentiful.

The desert is a naturally occurring landform, which existed on Earth long before man came into being. The geological record includes deposits that must have formed in ancient desert conditions dating back to the Permian period, which ended 230 million years ago. Although some contemporary deserts are probably no older than five million years, the Sahara, among others, shows signs of aridity dating back to mid-Tertiary times, up to 30 million years ago.

The misguided notion that the desert is man-made comes from scanty observations at the fringes of the desert, particularly at times of droughts. According to this notion, local nomads and bedouin let their animals overgraze the natural vegetation. This exposes the land to the wind and results in soil erosion, thus a desert is born.

This overly simplistic view does not take into account the extremely fragile nature of the habitable environment at the desert fringe. It overlooks the fact that the desert fringe is as easily improved by rainfalls as it is easily damaged by drought. It also neglects the fact that the desert fringe responds drastically not only to climatic changes, but also to events, such as wind storms and massive sand movement, in the heart of the desert. The case is like that of an earthquake beneath the ocean that results in devastating tidal waves at the seashore. Thus, it is important for us to understand the heart of the desert to be able to comprehend its semi-arid fringes.

What is it like to be in the midst of the largest expanse of dry land on Earth? To answer this, one must visit the eastern Sahara. You start at the Nile River and head westward in the Western Desert toward the borders of Egypt with Libya and Sudan. Here, where it may rain only once every 30 to 50 years, no blade of grass may be seen for distances of 300 miles or more.

Nature at its hardest is hard to imagine by those familiar only with humid or even semi-arid climates. In the hyper-arid desert, there are none of those things that are directly attributable to rain like rivers, streams, lakes, hedges, woods, and fields. Nor are there any features that are indirectly attributable to a mild climate, such as towns, villages, canals, and roads.

Lack of rain and persistent wind erosion created a landscape that is reminiscent of the barren surface of Mars. In this vegetation-free and perfectly flat terrain vehicles may move in most directions at will, restricted only by a scarp or a sand hill in the form of a dune. Travellers in such a desert navigate as sailors do at sea.

I have led a dozen journeys into the Western Desert of Egypt with geologists, geographers, archaeologists, and botanists. I am certain that these exploration teams have crossed tracts that have not been crossed by a human being in thousands of years. However, in numerous places we encountered tangible evidence of past human habitation.

In one of these journeys, I pointed to the largest dune in a cluster and asked of the experienced bedouin driver to head towards it. He obliged knowing that I wanted to sample its reddish sand. However, he insisted to drive right up to the base of the dune so that my sampling would not keep the party in the sun for long. He feared the vehicles would heat up as ovens. Thus, followed the rest of the mechanised caravan of six desert jeeps, water tank, gasoline tank, and a truck loaded with dried food and camp supplies.

Although it was late October, the blazing midday sun bathed in harsh brightness everything in sight. The air itself shimmered above the ground from the intense heat. With eyes squinting behind dark sunglasses, I quickly sampled the dune and started to photograph its sand against standard colour chips for comparison with other sands.

My fellow desert travellers left the roaring vehicles and went out to work. On the flat sandy ground at the base of the dune, the team's archaeologist found something that would prolong our stay. First, he picked up fragments of ostrich eggshells among the sands. Then he started checking the thin strata beneath the surface. He carefully peeled off layers of sand and soil with a knife and a miniature shovel. His labour resulted in uncovering fragments of bone. The bone was later identified to be from a calf, and the ostrich eggshell fragments were found to be, as dated by the C14 method, about 8,170 years old.

At the edges of vast plains in the Western Desert we encountered pieces of hard rock that are shaped into tools. These handaxes and sharp knives hewn from solid rock such as flint or quartzite betray former human habitation sites. These sites are usually scattered at the former shores of lakes where rainwater, in the geological past collected in low areas. The ancient lake beds or playas form today's flat, usually sand covered, plains in the desert.

If there was enough precipitation to form huge lakes, then the surface runoff must have formed streams and river channels. We find such evidence deep within this desert, as well as in the deserts of Arabia, Australia, China, and India. Deeply incised dry valleys, or wadis, attest to the erosive action of running water before the land became parched by the dry hot winds of today.

It is a triumph of science to be

able to reconstruct the intricate evolution of a desert tract. The work is like that of a detective who arrives at the scene after the evidence of the crime has been wiped out. A layer of dry mud, a piece of bone, a chisel made of rock, a fragment of ostrich eggshell are all pieces of the puzzle, which are collected, analyzed and contemplated. The labour of years finally pays, and handsomely.

Convincing archaeological evidence of the evolving history of today's desert comes from walls of caves along mountain slopes and scarps in the Sahara. Petroglyphs and coloured paintings portray an array of animals that must have flourished in a savanna-like environment. In one case there is even a clear indication of a progressing sequence. The oldest petroglyphs depict giraffes and baboons, then ostrich, and the younger drawings are of cattle, first without and later with horns.

All these prehistoric works of art bring to mind a picture of the eastern Sahara that is vastly different from the way it looks today. Thousands of years ago nature was much kinder and rain-fed vegetation covered large tracts of land around lakes with thriving fish populations. Animals roamed the land and birds hovered in the sky. Then, the climate started changing and the rain clouds gradually disappeared. The land was forsaken by the vegetation, animals and man.

This was not a one time event either, but it happened in cycles. This is displayed in the southern part of the Western Desert of Egypt, which is called the Arabian Desert. The name was derived from Darb El-Arbain. "The Road of the Forty," a desert track that connects Kharga Oasis in Egypt and El-Fashir Oasis in Sudan and requires 40 days to cross by camel.

Working with geological and archaeological evidence in the Arabian Desert, we were able to decipher alternations of dry and wet climates during the past 1,000,000 years of Earth's history. Most significant are indications that the great depressions is that desert existed in essentially their present shape approximately 200,000 years ago. Here the inhabitant of the region used artesian springs in the depressions for their livelihood.

After about 100,000 years ago, a dry period ensued and the water table dropped. Humans and animals disappeared. Wind erosion set in and the depressions were deepened by wind erosion that continued for tens of thousands of years.

Sometime after 60,000 years ago, a relatively wet climate returned and the water table rose. Ponds filled the desert depressions, plants, animals and man appeared again. The human settlers of this time were hunters of big game animals, for handaxes and rock knives pepper their hab-



Mount Owainat area on the Egyptian-Libyan-Sudanese border, where the Eastern Sahara is driest, as it appears in photos taken by cameras on the Landsat from a distance of 920 kilometres.

cycles of a hundred years, several thousand years, and perhaps even a hundred thousand or even millions of years superimposed on one another. These may be related to variations of the Earth's orbit about the Sun and other combinations of the relative positions of both.

If we take into account the fact that there is nothing constant on the face of the Earth except change, we can realise why it is so difficult to keep up with nature. With our severe limitations on how to predict nature's course we are usually caught off guard. At times like these we claim to possess knowledge that we do not have, and our hasty reactions may have detrimental effects.

Consider the case of the North African "Sahel". The term is from the Arabic word *sahel*, meaning the shore; the shoreline of the Saharan ocean of barren rocks and sand seas. Here rainfall is scanty and highly variable. Nomads have long pastured their herds in its semi-arid grasslands. The land seemed suitable for little else, because only nomads can take advantage of the fact that rain will fall in one place but not the other.

Before this century, nomads and bedouin of the Sahel roamed the land in search of pastures. Their natural instincts, from generations of learning how to live in such an environment, taught them how not to let their animals overgraze and when to move on to other pastures. They let the grazed land regenerate, because they knew that they had to return to it someday.

In dry years, the nomads moved southward, for they knew that the Sahara moved swiftly to gain more land for its dunes to move about. The borders of the Sahara were once much farther south than they are today, as indicated by the numerous sand dunes in the Sahel that must have formed under dry conditions in the past but are now

stabilised by natural vegetation. During the 20th century, the movement of the nomads was gradually restricted. First came the territorial boundaries newly created by the colonial powers. Then came the schemes of settling the nomads by the various governments. Aid from developed nations and international organisations could only be given to residents of towns and villages, but not to roaming nomads.

This restriction of movement encouraged agriculture in marginal lands and imposed boundaries on the grazing lands. During rainy years crops increased and herds multiplied. However, the years of drought, such as those between 1968 and 1974, brought misery to a huge belt including part of Somalia, Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta, Mauritania, and Senegal. A devastating famine ensued, and the story made news headlines around the world.

What can be done? There is no simple answer to this question. First we must recognise that the lesson to be learned here is that humans have not created the desert or its expansions, but they must learn to live with the fickle climatic regime of such a region," as said by archaeo-geologist William Farrand of the University of Michigan.

Second, we must recognise that because of their fragility, tracts of arid lands respond with curious sensitivity to a great number of variables if rainfall is set aside as the major influence. Degradation of these lands may result from encroachment of wind-blown sand or severe erosion of the soil by desert winds. Windbreaks in such a case would help lessen the impact of the natural process.

If a large tract of land is affected by drought, each segment of it may be affected differently because of its natural setting, topography, type of soil, natural vegetation,

and local climatic conditions. Hence, generalisations of cause and effect are dangerous and may result in solutions to problems that may be detrimental or harmful to the environment. Each case must be studied in detail and considered separately.

Although agriculture may be profitable in some parts, only grazing may be possible at the desert fringe. In the heart of the desert, we must study the ways of the nomads. This seemingly inhospitable place served as their only living space for thousands of years. The bedouin are a sensitive breed of human beings that have learned to respect nature and respond to its ever changing environment. In this, there is a lesson for us all.

Egyptian scholar Dr. Farouk El-Baz is vice president for international development at Itek Optical Systems, a division of Litton Industries, Inc., in Lexington, Massachusetts. He studied at Ain Shams University in Egypt, the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He taught geology at Assiut University, Egypt and the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Dr. El-Baz participated in the American space programme from 1967 to 1972 as supervisor of lunar science planning and lunar exploration at Belmont and Bell Telephone Laboratories, Washington DC. During these six years, he was secretary of the site selection committee for the Apollo lunar landings, chairman of the astronaut training group and principal investigator for visual observations and photography. Starting in 1973 and until he joined Itek in 1982, Dr. El-Baz established and directed the Centre for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

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Lendl beats Wilander in World Tennis Cup

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (AP) — Ivan Lendl came from behind in both sets to defeat Mats Wilander, 7-6, 7-5, and gave Czechoslovakia a 1-0 lead against Sweden in the \$531,000 World Team Tennis Cup Friday.

Lendl's victory put his team into Sunday's final of the eight-nation tournament, where it will most likely meet the United States.

Lendl, ranked second in the world, would then play John McEnroe, the world's top-ranked player.

The 24-year old Lendl was trailing 5-2 and 5-3 in the first and second set respectively against Wilander, the fourth-ranked player in the world.

But Lendl broke the Swede's service in key games and won the match in just over two hours.

Wilander, playing here his first match after missing Sweden's earlier two games because of a right-ankle injury, broke Lendl's service in the second game to take a 2-0 lead in the first set.

Lendl broke back in the next game and held his own service in the fourth to level 2-2, but Wilander won the next three games, breaking Lendl in the sixth game, and took a 5-2 lead.

Lendl then started putting more force into his shots and coming to the net more often to volley past the Swede.

He broke Wilander's service in

the ninth game with a backhand volley and scored again with the same shot in the next game to level the score at 5-5.

Both players then held service to send the set into the tie-break. Lendl took a 4-2 lead in the tie-break after winning a 65-shot rally, the longest of many long ones in the match.

Wilander raced to a 2-0 lead in the second set, but Lendl tied at 2-2.

The Czechoslovak slipped into a defensive game, letting Wilander make the errors in long rallies. But Lendl was in devastating form when he went to the net.

"I moved well throughout the match and I am happy with the way it went, although I am not totally happy with my game," said Lendl after the match.

Wilander broke the service in the third set, but Lendl served his third ace to cut the margin to 3-4 and then served another ace on his way to breaking the Swede in the 10th game to level at 5-5.

Lendl then took a 6-5 lead. Winning his service with an overhead backhand volley, and Wilander dropped his service in the

last game when Lendl first passed him with a backhand and the Swede then put a forehand. Wilander said after the match that his injury did not affect the outcome.

"I played quite well today. My ankle is getting better. I am glad I played because I need match practice before next week's French Open," Wilander said.

Henrik Sundstrom defeated Tomas Smid, 6-3, 6-3, to level the match at 1-1. Despite the outcome of the doubles, Czechoslovakia is certain to reach the finals.

China to send pandas to Olympic Games

PEKING (R) — China, which is mounting a campaign to raise money to help the giant panda, will send two pandas to Los Angeles for exhibition during the Summer Olympic Games, the China Daily reported Thursday.

It said the decision was made in response to urgent requests by the American people and Olympic athletes from several countries. It did not name the countries.

The official paper quoted Dong Zhiyong, China's deputy forestry minister who heads the drive to help to rescue the country's endangered giant pandas, as saying the two animals would tour America before returning to Peking.

IOC chief attacks games boycotts

BAD HOMBURG, West Germany (AP) — The president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Friday issued a sharp attack on superpower boycotts from the Summer Games, declaring that governments must stop using sports "as a hostage for political purposes."

In an address one day after failing to reverse a Soviet-bloc boycott of the Los Angeles Summer Games at a meeting in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Juan Antonio Samaranch called on international sports organisations to fight to protect the Olympic movement.

Samaranch said it was the responsibility of sports officials "to try and convince politicians that to take sports as one of the most important possibilities for people to understand and understand each other."

"As always, those penalised in the most unfair way are the athletes. They are taken once more as pawns and have hardly a chance to have their opinions taken into account," he said.

Samaranch opted that top athletes spend many years training physically and mentally in preparation for the games, and that it was most unfair "to deny them the opportunity to compete."

The IOC chief said that, as in 1980, the Olympic movement had to strengthen its ranks in unity "to fight against adversity and problems."

He described the Olympic Games as one of the "most important possibilities for people to understand and understand each other."

organised a walkout of three dozen nations, including West Germany, to protest the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Samaranch said that "such decisions, taken by political powers and not by sporting bodies, can only do harm to the whole international sports movement."

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The IOC chief said that, as in 1980, the Olympic movement had to strengthen its ranks in unity "to fight against adversity and problems."

"As we did in 1980, so we have to do now, to the last moment, even when there is no hope left," he said.

The former Spanish ambassador to the Soviet Union said that his career as a sportsman and diplomat had taught him that "only contacts can overcome differences and re-establish a dialogue for mutual respect."

"Perhaps it is what is most missing in our present world. We are of the opinion that our contribution to peace, as modest as it can be considered, is worthy of better treatment."

The Olympic leader also discussed the importance of fair play in sports competitions and condemned "an alarming growth of foul play, violence and cheating" in competitions in recent years.

The audience of about 350 people listening to Samaranch's 15-minute address in a hotel auditorium at this spa town near Frankfurt included outgoing West German President Karl Carstens and West German IOC member Wille Daume.

Fluminense beats Vasco

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Fluminense beat Vasco Da Gama 1-0 Thursday night in the first game of the Brazilian national soccer championship playoffs.

Fluminense now needs only a tie in the second playoff game on Sunday to win its first national title.

Paraguayan midfielder Romero scored the game's only goal at 23 minutes.

Fluminense dominated the game in the first period. The "tricolours" neutralised Vasco's agile midfield with a tight defence and constantly threatened with quick attacks by Assis, Tato and especially, Romero, who bedeviled the Vasco defence with his precision passing and shooting.

At 82 minutes, Fluminense lost a golden opportunity to score its second goal when Romero singlehandedly slipped through the Vasco defence and passed to Washington in front of the goal, but the centreforward missed the shot.

Horse racing starts in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

TUNEIB — The horse racing season kicked-off Friday here at the Royal Racing Club after three years of absence. The new horse racing tracks, located 17 kilometres south of Amman, replaced the previous location in Marka near the old airport.

Friday's events included three 1,000-metre races, two 1,600-metre races and one 2,200-metre camel race. A crowd of about 3,000 people attended the opening events of the horse-racing season.

The race-lovers at the tracks rushed to the ticket booths to bet on their favourite horses and watched the races in suspense and anticipation.

The race-track premises cover an area of 300 donoms of land. The track's amphitheatre has a seating capacity of 600 people and there are 200 stables, 20 large storage areas and a car park.

The races will be held every Friday and the results will be published in the local newspapers on Sundays.

Davila, Garza to defend their WBC titles

MIAMI BEACH (R) — World Boxing Council (WBC) champions Albert Davila and Jaime Garza of the United States defend their titles in what promises to be an action-packed double bill here on Saturday.

Davila defends his bantamweight title against Enrique Sanchez of the Dominican Republic while Garza, said by manager Benny Feigino to be "the most exciting fighter in the world today", guards his super-bantamweight crown against Colombian challenger Felipe Orozco.

Davila, who has recorded 47 wins in a 55-fight career, looks likely to have the tougher match in the temporary 10,000-seat stadium erected on the waterfront here.

The 29-year-old champion is making his first defence of the title he won in a 12th round knockout over Mexican Kiko Bejines, who later died from injuries suffered during the bout in September last

year. The title had earlier been vacated by Lupe Pintor of Mexico. But Sanchez, four years Davila's junior and ranked second by the WBC, boasts an impressive record having won 34 fights — 23 by knockout — against two defeats and a draw.

Garza looks more capable of surviving the assault of Orozco. At 25 the American has won all his 39 professional bouts, 37 inside the distance.

Garza's devastating punching power has carried him to victory inside the distance in his last 22 fights and Orozco, who will have a slight height advantage, will do well to stay out of trouble and stretch his unbeaten record to 18 fights.

Saturday's bill marks the first time a championship bout has been staged in the Miami area since November 1982, when Aaron Pryor stopped Alexis Arguello of Nicaragua.

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2. Maintenance and operation services for all Electro-Mechanical Equipment and Systems.
3. Maintenance works for all the buildings and their support services.

All contractors interested in bidding for this tender should contact the Tender Department at the DRMS in order to receive the general and specific terms and conditions of the tender. Contractors must be highly qualified with a minimum experience, in the specific field, of ten (10) years. In addition, the contractor must present official certificates/documents proving his technical and financial ability to implement the contract terms and conditions and to perform satisfactorily.

Closing date for offers shall be Thursday, 12 July 1984 at 12.00. THE PRICE OF THE TENDER DOCUMENTS IS ONE HUNDRED JORDAN DINARS, NON-REFUNDABLE, AND THEY WILL BE ON SALE FOR TWO WEEKS FROM THIS DATE.

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Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

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"Karate"
(Colour)

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(Colour)
"Indian Film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

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Saudi riyal rates soar

BAHRAIN (R) — Interest rates on large Saudi riyal deposits at offshore banks in Bahrain rose across the board Thursday, boosted by a higher dollar and rising U.S. interest rates, dealers said.

They said liquidity tightened at the short end of the market while at maturities of six months and longer, where dollar deposit rates still exceed their Saudi equivalent, there was also bidding for deposits.

Many banks and customers continue to run long dollar positions in expectation of a riyal devaluation over the next few weeks.

They said banks here were adjusting positions ahead of the holiday closure on Monday of the New York and London markets.

Dealing in one month riyals was complicated by a maturity which was likely to fall during the Eid religious holiday in Saudi Arabia.

With day to day money quoted around 11 1/4-1/2 per cent, one month funds were up 1/2 point at 11 1/2-1/4 per cent, three months up 1/2 point at 11 1/2-1/4, and six months up 1/2 point at 12 1/4-1/2.

The spot riyal was at 3.5208/12 to the dollar.

Interest rates on domestic Kuwaiti dinar deposits rose with dealers trying to protect their positions as bidding interest emerged for a number of periods, dealers in Kuwait said. They quoted, for small amounts, one month funds at 10 1/4-9/4 per cent, three months at 10 1/2-9/4 per cent and six months at 10 per cent. Day to day funds rose to around 8 1/2 per cent.

They said the central bank waited until late Thursday morning before offering some help to the market.

They said the overnight general rise of the dollar had led the Kuwaiti dinar to weaken slightly and it was quoted at 0.29580/90 to the dollar against 0.29570/75 Wednesday.

The central bank adjusted its free market selling rates to 0.29585 to the dollar from 0.29570 Wednesday.

The bank's commercial rate was quoted at 0.29336/72 to the dollar against 0.29322/58 Wednesday.

Japan, U.S. to announce liberalisation package

TOKYO — Japan and the United States will simultaneously announce on May 29 a package of measures to liberalise Japan's financial markets, Finance Ministry officials said Thursday.

They declined to give details of the package drafted in Rome by Japan's Vice Minister of Finance Tomomitsu Oba and U.S. Treasury Under-Secretary Beryl Sprinkel.

The officials said the announcement would refer not only to Japanese market-opening measures but also to U.S. measures on the unitary tax system and U.S. contributions to world organizations.

World Bank approves \$9b increase for poor countries

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank approved a \$9 billion increase in funding Thursday for the poorest countries and elevated Japan to its second most powerful member after the United States.

Tokyo's reluctance to open Japanese capital markets to foreign competition; also calls for a so-called selective capital increase of \$8.4 billion.

Final agreement on the new funding must be ratified by member countries' legislators, including the U.S. Congress, and this is not expected to be completed until September when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank hold their joint annual meeting in Washington.

The \$9 billion figure goes to the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's poorest member.

Bank officials had hoped to see as far higher amount for the agency but this was opposed by the United States.

The Reagan administration took the position that since the U.S. share was 25 per cent of the IDA funding, it was unlikely a belt-tightening Congress would agree to more assistance when the United States was burdened with record budget deficits.

Earlier this week, the United States and Japan reached agreement on a number of measures that would open up Japanese capital markets. Details have not yet been disclosed.

Donor countries other than the United States are discussing ways to come up with a supplementary fund of \$3 billion for IDA.

Monetary sources said West Germany and Japan opposed the move on the grounds that it violated burden-sharing agreements since the United States was not a party to the talks.

A number of other countries including Britain, France and the Netherlands, favour the supplementary fund and discussions are still in progress.

They are hoping to change West Germany's mind, said one monetary source.

Dollar declines against yen

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar dropped for the fifth straight trading session against the Japanese yen on the Tokyo foreign exchange market Friday, finishing at 231.00 yen, down slightly from Thursday's close of 231.35 yen. It was also 2.85 yen lower than last Friday's closing rate of 233.85 yen.

The dollar opened at 229.70 yen and ranged between 229.50 yen and 231.15 yen against the previous day's fluctuation of 231.35 yen and 232.05 yen, market sources said.

Trading was moderately active, market sources said, with spot deals totaling \$1.624 billion compared with Friday's \$2.560 billion.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you can make grandiose plans early in the day, so stick to proven methods, while later your judgment is excellent and you can do anything connected with reason.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can handle that problem with a partner best by doing nothing about it and it soon resolves itself.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your work should go very well provided you do not let that bossy individual interfere with it. Be alert.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You find it hard to decide which pleasures to delve into during the morning, but later the right outlets present themselves.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't enter into any arguments between kin and an official, but show more interest in what partners are doing.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have some good ideas for daily use, but a higher-up does not approve, so put aside for awhile. Don't neglect shopping.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You find it difficult to decide which of two money interests you want to get into early, but later you make the right decision.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A hasty associate could spoil your plans for the day, so waste little time with him or her and then carry through with your own ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Confer with experts and get advice you need concerning important matters, and forget unnecessary work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Forget that friend who wants to take you out for fun and get fine creative work done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Some public matter should be discussed with kin before you handle it, but don't take action as yet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Not a good day to get in touch with those at a distance, so concentrate on those who are near.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use your judgment in monetary matters and don't seek advice from one in business as yet. Be bapier in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be interested in conditions that cause tensions and arguments between others and want to get involved in them, so teach to mind own business and be safe. Give as fine an education as you can afford.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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W. German metalworkers union, employers continue discussion

BONN (R) — West Germany's metalworkers union holds further talks with employers Friday in a bid to solve a bitter dispute over its demand for a 35-hour week in which a quarter of a million people are striking, laid off or locked out.

The negotiations, which began Thursday in Stuttgart, were the first between the two sides since the union, the IG Metall, called for strikes in components firms two weeks ago, paralysing West Germany's car industry.

The seven hour-long talks, lasting late into the night, ended on a note of optimism, with negotiators from both sides expressing readiness to continue discussions.

IG Metall, which represents 2.5 million workers in the engineering and car industry, is demanding a five-hour cut in the present 40-hour week as a way to create more

jobs, but employers say shorter hours would increase their costs.

Meanwhile, strikes and lock-outs continued, with employers saying they would extend lock-outs continued, with employers saying they would extend lock-outs to the Frankfurt area from Wednesday, hitting 30,000 workers.

About 65,000 workers were locked out in the Stuttgart area last Tuesday to retaliate against strikes in the area, which have halted production at car-makers BMW, Audi and Daimler-Benz for lack of components.

Mr. Hans Peter-Stihl, the employers' chief negotiator, told reporters after Thursday's talks that discussions had concentrated on ways of cutting working hours but were still at an early stage.

British miners, management likely to reach agreement

LONDON (R) — Britain's striking miners and the state-owned Coal Board are planning fresh talks amid signs of compromise in the 11-week dispute which has disrupted British coal production.

Both miners and management Thursday adopted a markedly more conciliatory approach, as investors began to worry that the strike could affect the country's hesitant economic recovery.

Coal Board chairman Mr. Ian MacGregor said he was optimistic

about new talks arranged with miners' leader Mr. Arthur Scargill. "I'm very optimistic about what we see ahead," he said in a television interview Thursday night.

Mr. Scargill described the Coal Board's offer of talks as "the first major step" towards finding a solution.

Commentators said both men were suddenly taking a more conciliatory tack, after weeks of tough rhetoric and animosity.

Chinese keep high hopes on onshore oilfield

PEKING — China's biggest onshore oilfield Thursday announced a significant increase in production targets as a more sober attitude to offshore prospects began to emerge.

Mr. Zheng Yaoshun, mayor of the northeastern Daqing City, told the China Daily that daqing oilfield, which produces almost half the nation's crude, had lifted its output target this year by two million tonnes to 53 million.

His announcement, coupled with other recent reports from China's onshore oil sector, showed that a present onshore drive is making headway and looks set to boost total 1984 oil output well over the conservative official target of 108 million tonnes.

Meanwhile, foreign firms prospecting in the country's huge offshore energy programme have had little success so far.

In the South China sea, generally regarded as the area with most potential, firms under contract with China have drilled 23 wells but discovered only one marginal field.

China and the French firm Total are negotiating to develop this but industry sources have said the French are not keen to do so as current contract terms make the prospect unprofitable.

In international oil exploration terms, the number of wells drilled without a large find is not excessive, but the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) has toned down its previous highly optimistic forecasts for offshore oil.

"CNOOC is getting edgy," one oilman said, and according to industry readings of CNOOC announcements, China is now ready to modify its previous tough stance on offshore contract terms to avoid frightening firms away from future offshore deals.

"There is no question oil is there, the question is where and how long to get it up," another oil executive said.

China's onshore fields may thus have to sustain increasing domestic industrial demand as well as

annual crude exports of 15 million tonnes for longer than was originally thought before offshore oil comes on stream.

China cannot fail its industry, which is already running seriously below capacity due to energy shortages, nor can it seriously cut exports, which provide crucial foreign exchange.

But the extra oil from Daqing alone would easily cover the small two million tonne increase in total 1984 national crude output envisaged under the state plan.

China's second biggest field at Shengli, in east China, also forecasts a 1984 rise from the 18.36 million tonnes it produced in 1983.

U.S. bankers worry over L. American debt

By Alan Wheatley
Reuters

NEW YORK — Bankers here are growing increasingly worried about the huge dangers that the U.S. financial system would face if Latin American nations failed to keep up payments on their \$340 billion debt mountain.

Fears that the billions of dollars in U.S. loans to Latin America could go sour have been fanned by the recent rise in interest rates and signs that some of the region's borrowers, especially Argentina, are taking a tougher line with the banks.

In a move seen as a significant hardening of the Latin American position, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia are planning an early high-level meeting of debtor nations, to seek better repayment terms and trade access for their goods.

"If you isolate Argentina, I wouldn't worry," a senior New York banker told Reuters. "But if simultaneously Brazil and Ecuador stopped paying, then I'd have a hard time measuring the impact. People would get scared."

Nobody says it is going to happen, but on paper the big U.S. banks could be wiped out if the loans go bad. Their loans to Latin America are about double shareholders' equity — the capital and reserves which would have to be called on in the event of major write-offs.

European banks, by contrast, are less vulnerable. For instance, the deposits of Swiss and West German banks to Latin America is about half of equity.

Mr. Fritz Leutwiler, the president of the Basle-based bank for international settlements, acknowledged this week that some banks will face losses on their foreign lending.

"Losses will emerge. A proportion of these debts will not be paid back," Mr. Leutwiler told an international management symposium in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Mr. William Isaac, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which insures U.S. bank deposits, said banking regulators are aware of the vulnerability of American banks but are confident that the problems can be contained.

Asked about the possible impact of third world debt difficulties on the U.S. banking system, Mr. Isaac told Reuters in Washington: "I think people in the government and in the industry have an obligation to be concerned about things like that and to take appropriate steps. I believe these steps are being taken, and I don't expect any problems to develop that we can't handle," Mr. Isaac said.

Bankers worry most about Argentina, which has arrears of more than two billion dollars on its \$43.6 billion debt and has yet to agree with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the economic austerity programme demanded by the IMF and the banks before they extend fresh credit.

U.S. banks were narrowly spared the blow of reduced earnings for 1983's first quarter when Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia lent Argentina \$300 million at the end of March so it could pay interest before an accounting deadline.

Bankers had steeled themselves for the losses. In the case of the Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, for instance, the largest lender to Argentina with \$1.32 billion of loans, net earnings would have been slashed by 23 per cent.

Losses of this magnitude, although painful, could be easily absorbed, bankers and analysts say. But the real danger would come if several borrowers stopped paying interest, undercutting the banks' earnings and eroding confidence.

Just how quickly confidence can evaporate was illustrated by Chicago's Continental Illinois, the eighth largest bank in the country, which recently lost billions of dollars in deposits within days amid rumours that it was in financial difficulties.

The federal reserve, the U.S. Central Bank, responded to continental Illinois' liquidity crisis by lending it \$4 billion, while the FDIC gave an assurance that all depositors in the bank would be fully protected.

Bankers welcomed these decisive actions but some said they could backfire by weakening the discipline of the marketplace.

If sovereign borrowers know that bank regulators will make every effort to prevent a major bank from failing, they will have less incentive to pay their debts, these bankers said.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NEFIT
TCHAB
GANDEA
WABILE

HE WAS ALWAYS GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE WAS THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: LIBEL CANAL BEHOLD DAWNED
Answer: What the rabbits who were playing in the onion patch had — "A BAWL"

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

THE Daily Crossword by John Greenman

ACROSS

1 Flounder in water

6 Church part

10 Strike-breaker

14 —the wisp

15 Treaty

16 Thomas Edison

17 False name

18 Vacuum tube: auct.

19 In apple order

20 Naarsight: edness

22 Haphazard

24 Jolted

26 Leases

27 Norma of old films

30 Disenchantment

31 Poet Shelley

32 Narcotic

35 Angelico, a.g.

38 Sty noise

39 Win by —

40 Baal

41 Three: ft. Expand

42 Home base

44 Female fawn

45 Made very angry

47 Broad sword

50 Treat for baby

52 Empty talk

54 Prohibit

58 Exchange fee

59 Taj Mahal

61 Author John le —

62 Permit

63 Ur's the author

64 Virtuosity

65 Gaelic

66 Milley or Ferber

67 Tenters

13 Saunas, e.g.

21 "These the times..."

23 Too precise

25 Danish coin

27 Ptnpoint

28 Successor

29 Coastat bird

30 Regret

31 Nation next to Ger.

34 Atoll

35 Banner

36 Unthinking repetition

39 Reverence

40 Pancake

42 Variety

43 Royalty members

44 Remove from office

46 Comp. pt.

47 Climb

48 Horatio —

49 Lure

50 Imprisoned

51 Stage part

53 Wheeze

55 Paria

56 airport

58 Dies —

59 Clears

60 Literary collection

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

WAGLE PLAYED ABOUT
ALONG TRAIL IN AREA
AND NEW CLOVERLEAF
MATERIAL UPENDS
UKASIE AGE
SERAPHIC CHENTILLE
BRIE TIEBIE SICALIA
HANS HADIAN EYAT
AYRIP LADIED ENE
COTTELE SEBUN
LOIT BEFIT
ARTTER HALLTIEBIE
SEBANDIE SARE
SIALA ALRITA EETS
TYMEN LEASTIE SIEK

DOWN

1 Took a dip

2 Water —

3 Mishmaah

4 Card game

5 Argyles

6 Fitting

7 Dissect sentences

8 Upbraid

9 Sicily

10 Smoothed flooring

11 —sweep

12 Halmaman's call

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Death toll reaches 215 in Bombay.

BOMBAY (Agencies) — The nine-day death toll in Hindu-Muslim fighting in the Bombay region mounted to 215 Friday as two powerful bomb explosions jarred this Arabian Sea port, authorities said.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, warning that chaos could engulf the nation, said communal frenzy was being whipped up and terror being spread.

At least three people were fatally knifed and 10 seriously wounded in overnight rioting in Bombay, capital of India's western state of Maharashtra. Six people also were slain in night-long clashes in six nearby towns, prompting authorities to rush in troops.

Indian President Zail Singh said Friday that those who preached hatred and violence were enemies of religion. "Resorting to violence, in the name of religion, as being witnessed these days, is a matter of sorrow and pain," he told a convention in the Hindu holy city of Benares.

Police opened fire Friday to scatter a large rock-throwing mob in Parel, a textile-manufacturing area in north Bombay. No deaths were reported, but officials said a police inspector was injured.

Sixteen more decomposed bodies were reported found Friday by government teams in the town of Bhiwandi, scene of savage religious violence, state police said.

A municipal corporation employee and his four children were seriously wounded Friday in a bomb blast on Bombay's Palton Road. A bomb also exploded in nearby Pydhoni area with no reported injuries.

Home-made swords, light bulbs filled with acid, tube lights, clubs and bottles were among the makeshift weapons intercepted Thursday in eastern suburbs of Bombay.

Officials told the arms were being brought into the city for a new offensive expected Friday night. Friday is the Muslims' day of prayer and several thousand normally gather after work at mosque throughout India.

Neither state officials nor police would say whether members of the region's majority Hindu or minority Muslim communities were responsible for trying to step up the violence.

Officials said the death toll in a week of bitter street fighting and arson in Bombay and neighbouring textile towns rose to 215.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's son and political heir apparent, Rajiv, Friday cancelled plans to meet foreign correspondents. He flew to Bombay and was expected to make a second tour of riot areas, his secretary in New Delhi told.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported communal violence flared again in the northern state of Punjab Thursday night when eight people were killed and one was seriously injured. Gunmen ambushed a car and sprayed it with automatic fire, PTI said.

Gunmen on a motorcycle stopped the car in the central Punjab town of Ludhiana and opened fire on the occupants who all belonged to one community. PTI did not identify them.

Indian news organisations have voluntarily agreed not to identify ethnic or religious communities involved in sectarian clashes for fear of provoking further retaliatory attacks.

But Sikh extremists demanding autonomy for Punjab have been waging a guerrilla war against Hindus, members of the security forces and moderate members of India's 12-million strong Sikh community, most of whom live in the farming state.

Kim meets Chernenko

MOSCOW (R) — President Konstantin Chernenko spoke out Thursday for Korean reunification "without any outside interference" during talks with North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung. The Soviet news agency TASS said that during the talks, which took place on the second day of Mr. Kim's visit to Moscow, "special attention was given... to the situation in the Korean peninsula, which remains unsettled and tense due to the continuing presence of American troops in South Korea."

The Kremlin has yet to make clear what kind of talks it would favour between Seoul and Pyongyang or how reunification of North and South could be achieved.

Mr. Kim has called for tripartite talks with Washington and Seoul on reunification, while the United States has said it would prefer negotiations involving itself, the two Koreas and China. Peking backs Mr. Kim's call.

Mr. Kim, on his first visit to Moscow for 20 years, told Mr. Chernenko that his country sought American withdrawal from the South.

TASS said senior North Korean officials, including the foreign and defence ministers, accompanied President Kim at the Kremlin talks with Mr. Chernenko and four other politburo members.

TASS said the talks "corroborated the similarity" of the two sides' views on international affairs, a catch phrase which normally indicates disagreement on some points.

Asian diplomats said the problem area was likely to have been China, which North Korea has appeared to favour in recent years, despite its delicately-trod path between the estranged communist giants.

Chinese Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang visited Pyongyang earlier this month, a trip which the diplomats said probably irritated Moscow.

TASS said both sides "pointed out the danger of the growing militaristic trends in Japan and of the attempts to create a military-political alliance between Washington, Tokyo and Seoul."

Mr. Chernenko Wednesday night accused the U.S., Japan and South Korea of forging a bloc to "divide and rule" in Asia.

Other diplomats said it was significant that both sides "strongly denounced the aggressive policy" of NATO and the United States but only "pointed out the danger" of developments in Asia.

They said this careful phrasing indicated that both sides agreed on the situation in Europe, but their views did not wholly coincide on Asia.

The Soviet news agency said both sides outlined the state of each other's economies and also discussed the prospects for developing trade and other ties.

Asian diplomats said this reference and the presence at the talks of senior ministers indicated they probably covered Pyongyang's desire for increased Soviet economic and military aid.

They said Moscow was likely to accept a shopping list for new Soviet arms to replace North Korea's ageing weaponry as part of its aim to draw Pyongyang closer to its orbit.

The lavish welcome Mr. Kim has received in Moscow was another Kremlin sign of its desire for close relations, the diplomats added.

Mondale calls Reagan remarks about global safety 'particularly chilling'

CHICAGO — Democratic presidential hopeful Walter Mondale Wednesday rejected as "particularly chilling" a statement by President Reagan that the world was a safer place than when he took office.

"The world has become more dangerous, and less safe," Sen. Mondale said in Chicago in response to Mr. Reagan's comments at a news conference Tuesday night.

He also disputed the president's optimism that interest rates would go down and accused him of substantially under-estimating the federal deficit.

Sen. Mondale said Mr. Reagan's comments "demonstrate again his remoteness from reality."

He said the traders on the Chicago mercantile exchange floor, which he visited, were among those "betting that interest rates are going to go up sharply in the next few months."

"The expectations now are that the interest rates are going to go up further and much of that would happen regardless of what the Federal Reserve (bank) does," he added.

He said the Reagan administration had "substantially underestimated" the eventual size of the federal deficit which he called the major factor in the upward pressure on interest rates.

Mr. Reagan, who has his party's nomination to run for a second term sewn up, said last night that he thought deficit projections were overestimated.

Sen. Mondale, who is ahead of rival Sen. Gary Hart and far ahead of black rights leader Jesse Jackson in the race for his party's presidential nomination, was in Chicago to raise money for the final round of primaries next month.

He said his campaign was in debt and he spent about an hour a day trying to raise money.

UNESCO sets up team to study reform of agency

PARIS (R) — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO's) executive board agreed to set up a committee Thursday night to look at ways of improving the U.N. agency, which faces a threat of an American withdrawal in just over seven months.

The decision, taken by consensus at the end of a two-week board meeting, followed strong pressure for reform from Western nations unhappy about the way UNESCO is run.

Speaking after a marathon closing session which ended after midnight, U.S. Ambassador Jean Gerard said: "Although there is no change yet and the year is running out there are still some opportunities for change."

She said the board meeting did not show enough sense of urgency and she was disappointed by some of the decisions it took.

A resolution sponsored by Third World members regretting the U.S. withdrawal decision and calling for it to be reconsidered was passed, by 33 votes to six with two abstentions.

Board members from the United States, West Germany, Britain, Japan, Italy and Belgium opposed the resolution, saying it lacked any reference to a need to reform UNESCO.

But French and Spanish delegates joined communist Third World countries in voting for the text after several hours of bargaining failed to produce a draft acceptable to both sides.

Mr. Gerard described the resolution as one-sided "it did not bring in the reference to the need for change and reform that we felt was necessary."

"We have said from the beginning that if there were significant change we would be willing to look at it and perhaps even reconsider the decision," Mr. Gerard said.

Third World sponsors of the resolution regretting the American withdrawal said they had "beaten over backwards" to meet Western objections but could not link the issue with that of reform without appearing to give in to American pressure.

Cuban delegate Mr. Alfredo Guevara said if the board agreed to reforms demanded by the U.S., "We would be surrendering our sovereignty."

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Japan concerned over Chernenko's criticism

TOKYO (AP) — The Foreign Ministry called in a Soviet embassy official Friday to convey Japan's displeasure over Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko's charges that militarism is reviving in Japan.

A ministry spokesman said a note from Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe was handed to Minister-Councillor Lyndvig A. Chizhov, the embassy's No. 2 man, by Deputy Director-General Takehiro Togo of the European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau.

Mr. Chernenko, at a dinner for North Korean President Kim Il-Sung in Moscow Wednesday, charged that militarism is reviving in Japan, thus destabilising Asia. The Soviet leader also criticised Japanese demand for the return of four South Kurile Islands, seized by Soviet troops in the closing days of World War II.

The spokesman said Mr. Abe challenged Mr. Chernenko's statement as "totally contrary to facts," derived apparently from incorrect perception and misunderstanding about the defensive nature of Japan's defence capability and policy.

He said Mr. Abe also pointed out that Japan has been exerting its diplomatic efforts to maintain friendly relations with the Soviet Union despite "harsh" circumstances surrounding the two neighbours.

Mr. Chizhov, while promising to convey the note to Moscow, defended Mr. Chernenko's statement as a view point based on "objective judgment" of the situation in and around Japan, the ministry spokesman said.

Moscow warns Finnish communists against split

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership Friday warned the Finnish Communist Party to avoid a split or any dilution of its ideological line at a party congress starting Friday.

A message to the congress from the Kremlin said communist parties could only be successful if they remained loyal to orthodox Marxism-Leninism and fought off attempts to weaken this commitment or sow inner-party divisions.

"We would like to express our confidence that the delegates... will ensure the party remains unified and united on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism," it added.

The Finnish party is divided between a moderate "Eurocommunist" majority and a hardline pro-Moscow minority.

Finnish analysts have said the congress is likely to lead to the demolition of some leading hardliners and could even cause a formal split in the party. They also say it may liberalise some aspects of the party's policy line.

The Soviet message printed in the party daily Pravda, appeared intended as a warning that any such moves would displease Moscow, which in the past has regarded the Finnish party as among the most loyal in the west.

The phrase "proletarian internationalism" is used by the Kremlin to mean loyalty to Soviet policies and Moscow's leadership of the communist movement.

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ QJ10543
♦ Q65
♦ Void
♦ K654

WEST EAST
♦ 9E7 ♦ A
♦ 10 ♦ 742
♦ AQ102 ♦ 9E76543
♦ AQ1097 ♦ 32

SOUTH
♦ K62
♦ AKJ983
♦ KJ
♦ JS

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♦ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣
Pass 2 ♣ 3 ♦ 3 ♥
5 ♦ Pass Pass Dble
Pass 5 ♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠.

the Brazilians hid un-molested to four apades. The hiding shown occurred in the room where Brazil's star, Gabriel Chagas, held the West cards. He and his partner pushed to five diamonds — a contract that could be made if declarer takes the diamond flosses. However, the New Zealanders hid on to five hearts, a contract that seemed safe enough.

It would have been safe had Chagas routinely led either his suit or his partner's. Unfortunately for New Zealand, he hit upon a spade lead, and declarer stood on chance.

East won the ace and shifted to a club. Chagas rose with the ace of clubs and returned another spade for his partner to ruff. The defenders had collected their three tricks before declarer could even get started.

New Zealand was doubly unlucky, because it could have made five apades unless East found an inspired heart lead, or a club lead followed by a heart shift from West.

As it was, New Zealand lost 13 International Match Points.

In the match between Taiwan and Sweden, the former made five hearts with an overtrick to one room and five diamonds doubled in the other room for a huge gain.

Against this gloomy background, the NATO ministers will debate the findings of a major study on the management of East-West relations which tries to identify avenues for a more constructive dialogue but proposes no new Western initiatives.

NATO aides say the three-day meeting has been stage-managed to display alliance harmony and avoid controversy.

President Reagan will host White House ceremonies with a distinctly pre-election flavour marking the 35th anniversary of NATO and the retirement of its veteran Secretary General, Dutchman Joseph Luns, they said.

U.S. officials said the Reagan administration would dearly like to be able to show some sign of a softening of "cold war two" as the election nears, but the Kremlin seems determined to do him no favours.

Reagan, Democrats split on Central American aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives has agreed to President Reagan's request for extra military aid for El Salvador, but rejected his proposal for providing further funds to Nicaragua's rebels.

The Democrat-dominated House voted 267-154 Thursday to approve Mr. Reagan's request for an extra \$61.7 million for El Salvador. But it voted 241-177 to cut off funds for the anti-Sandinist rebels.

Both provisions were attached to a \$1 billion supplementary spending bill for 1984, which will now be considered by the Senate.

Mr. Reagan threatened to veto the measure if aid to the Nicaraguan rebels were deleted and a top Republican Senate aide said Thursday night it was unclear what would happen next.

He told Reuters a 10-day congressional recess "will give us time to assess how to go forward... we'd like to try to keep some money for Communists alive."

The vote on El Salvador reflected a dramatic change in the House's attitude, mainly due to appeals by President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte during a Washington visit this week and Thursday's conviction of five former soldiers for the murders of four U.S. churchwomen in 1980.

House Democrats had stalled a vote on Mr. Reagan's request for more military aid for El Salvador since March.

The extra funds will bring El Salvador's total military package for 1984 to \$126.5 million, up from \$83 million in 1983.

Some liberals said they respected and supported Duarte but supplying the money without strict conditions provided no guarantee that abuses of human rights would stop.

House Speaker Thomas O'Neill said the denial of funds for Nicaraguan rebels responded to the will of Americans.

"Americans want their government to respect the borders of other countries. They want the United States to oppose aggression, not sponsor it," he said.

They said this careful phrasing indicated that both sides agreed on the situation in Europe, but their views did not wholly coincide on Asia.

The Soviet news agency said both sides outlined the state of each other's economies and also discussed the prospects for developing trade and other ties.

Asian diplomats said this reference and the presence at the talks of senior ministers indicated they probably covered Pyongyang's desire for increased Soviet economic and military aid.

They said Moscow was likely to accept a shopping list for new Soviet arms to replace North Korea's ageing weaponry as part of its aim to draw Pyongyang closer to its orbit.

The lavish welcome Mr. Kim has received in Moscow was another Kremlin sign of its desire for close relations, the diplomats added.

He said Iran had so far declined to accept repeated Japanese requests to guarantee freedom and safety of Gulf shipping.

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Japan to seek debate on Gulf during EC summit

TOKYO (R) — Japan, heavily dependent on Gulf oil, wants the Iran-Iraq war to figure prominently at next month's London summit of the leading industrial democracies.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone wants the seven leaders at the summit to consider an emergency oil-sharing system under which the United States and other nations would release their strategic reserves if the Gulf crisis worsens.

"The countries should consult with each other, first with the idea of releasing government stockpiles, and at the same time we need to consider possible concerted action," he was quoted as telling British journalists.

In contrast to expectations in European capitals and Washington of a low-key annual meeting, Mr. Nakasone said he thought the summit from June 7 to 9 would be politically and economically important.

He said he was optimistic that the government leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan and West Germany could reach a joint approach to the threat posed by the Gulf war to oil traffic.

Japan, which imports 65 per cent of its oil from the Gulf area, discussed the war with Iraqi and Kuwaiti ministers last week but Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said its efforts to protect ships from attacks had met Iranian intransigence.

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Craxi to back Spanish entry into European Community

MADRID (R) — Spain Friday expected Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi to re-affirm Italy's unconditional support for Spanish entry into the European Community (EC), official Spanish sources said.

They said Mr. Craxi was scheduled to spell out his country's position on Community enlargement and other issues at a news conference before leaving Madrid at the end of a two-day visit for a meeting of socialist government leaders in Paris.

The officials said the European Community and bilateral relations were the main topics discussed by Mr. Craxi and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at their first round of talks Thursday.

The two socialist prime ministers also considered ways to reinforce what were described as the excellent relations between Italy and Spain. Both countries will be looking to each other for support when Spain joins the 10-nation bloc.

Italy backs Spanish entry into the Community, despite the inevitable competition that will result between their wines, fruits and olives, on the grounds that it will gain in return an expanded outlet for its industrial exports.

Spain is hoping to finalise common market entry negotiations by the end of this year to meet a target date for accession in 1986.

Mr. Gonzalez has made clear that he needs the guarantee of Community entry to help him win the referendum he has pledged on Spain's continued membership of the NATO.

Others think the Soviet freeze is tactical and will give way to a more receptive approach next year if NATO holds firm.

Neither school of thought sees much hope of progress in the meantime in those negotiations which are still alive — the Vienna East-West talks on troop reductions in Europe, the Geneva disarmament committee on chemical weapons, and the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures in Europe.

Officials noted that NATO countries had made fresh proposals in each of these forums this year but received negative responses from the Soviet bloc.

They said planned Moscow trips by French President Francois Mitterrand and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, part of the attempt to re-open dialogue, were now hostage to the fate of hunger-striking Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and his wife.

"If the Soviets let Sakharov die, East-West relations would be bound to take a further dive," a NATO official said.

Some officials believe that under the influence of veteran Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, the Kremlin leadership has adopted a long-term strategy of

getting tough towards all its adversaries, both in the West and in the Far East.

Others